



DISTRICT 201 W2



Newsletter

JANUARY 2017

WE SERVE

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DISTRICT GOVERNOR

Terry Collinson

"LIONS TRANSITION TO THE FUTURE"

Membership – keep it simple

1. Why do people join Lions or any other service organisation? Is it:-

- The chance to do community service/projects?
- For companionship and fellowship?
- For fun and social activities?
- Because Lions are well recognised as good people AND fun to be around?

Or all of the above.

Why did you join Lions? - And - Why do you stay?

Is it any different today compared to when you joined?

- If still the same, then ask others who may have the same interest as you did.

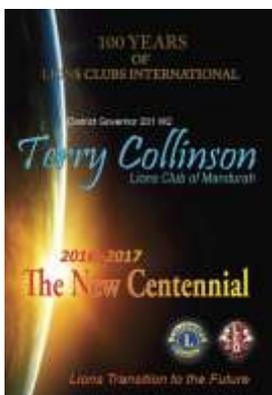
2. Do young people believe in community service?

- Are our projects relevant to others?
- Is your Club something that would attract others to join?
- Would you join the Club as it is today?

It must be noted that District, MD, and Lions International can help and provide guidance. But it must start with the Clubs, with members who believe in what we do and have faith in the future.

We must all do as much as we can for the future of our great organisation.

For specific plans and ideas, join us at Myalup Pines 10 and 11 February for a weekend workshop. Bookings and program to Peter Lamb GMT,
peterlambman@gmail.com -



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District website
[http://
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Who Do We Serve?

Lions are the largest Service organisation in the World?

Our individual clubs operate in their local community and perform a wide range of local activities. These clubs support many local projects financially and in kind.

Our clubs are the driving force within Lions and local communities benefit in many ways. Community members come together in a spirit of friendship and fellowship and support local projects, social events, sporting clubs, welfare, and other community programs. There is little argument that local towns and communities are enhanced with an active local Lions Club.

But Lions are so much more than a local community service group. Together, Lions support other valuable programs such as youth, health, humanity and environment.

As Lions we also support our, District Foundations such as Save Sight (LEI), Lions Hearing (Ear Science), Alzheimer's Research, Drug Education, and others. Multiple Districts such as Childhood Cancer Research, emergency relief & general funding (ALF), Children's Mobility, and many others. Internationally such as, worldwide assistance for disaster relief (LCIF), measles eradication, river blindness, hunger and humanity relief, and others.

The support for all of these essential services is what Lions are about and why we have such wonderful public support. It is why Lions are recognized for our valuable contributions in local, state, national and international programs.

I am often asked, how do clubs allocate their donations for all of these services? I advise-

- Firstly we are a community based club, and
- Secondly, we are an intrinsic part of an International Service Organisation.

We are so much more than just a local Lions Club.

I then suggest that the following formula may be relevant to allocating donations-

- 50% Local and community based services
- 20% District and State Foundations.
- 15% Multiple District – (incl. ALF and Foundations)
- 15% International (LCIF and others)

The donations are then allocated to Foundations within these groups.

**WE SERVE – those in need. WE SUPPORT all our programs.
WE ARE PROUD to be Lion's.**

Terry Collinson, DG 201W2

INDONESIA EARTHQUAKE APPEAL:

Our thoughts go out to all those effected by earthquake in Indonesia. LCIF was first to respond with an Emergency Grant of US\$10,000. Within hours of receiving this, LCIF also approved a US\$100,000.00 Major Catastrophe Grant for MD 307 Indonesia.

Australian Lions have once again been asked for assistance. Remembering that only a couple of weeks ago our neighbours across the ditch also suffered a tragedy in an earthquake. LCIF was there to assist them also.

Lions, please consider a donation to the "LCIF Disaster Relief Fund" to enable assistance be given to Disaster related projects including New Zealand and Indonesia.

Send your cheque in Australian Dollars to W2 Cab Treasurer, Mike Ottman.

(Donation is eligible for a Melvin Jones Fellow or a PMJ Fellow.)

Lion Evelyn Kelly lcifdc201w2@gmail.com

Are We Having Fun Yet?

This article is being reprinted from the April 2016 issue. (Editor)

(Downer alert: Readers may find the first part of this report to be depressingly familiar).

In my short time on Cabinet, I have been disappointed to hear regular reports of clubs in crisis characterised by members in distress, conflict and argument, people taking sides, loss of members and, in some cases, the loss of the clubs as well.

So what are the common denominators in these conflicts?

Project Dictatorship

The one that keeps coming up time and again is where a project has become bigger than the Club. The project is usually championed by someone who has been doing it for years or who has such a vested interest in the project that they have lost sight of why we do projects in the first place.

In many of these instances, the rest of the membership appears to have to fall into line with the project or they are made to feel that they are not contributing. In the worst cases, the Project Leader has to all intents and purposes hijacked the club to support the project and in doing so has alienated the rest of the membership.

Leader for Life

Many clubs do not have the luxury of a large membership from which to choose their office bearers. But even the smallest clubs have an opportunity to rotate roles so that different ideas and perspectives can be tapped into to help keep the club moving forward. The danger of leaving officers in the same role year in year out is that the member ends up defining their Lions identity by their role and as a result no-one else will ever be able to do the job as well as the incumbent. In the worst cases, any attempt to move the incumbent on will be met with open hostility and derision.

"If You Don't Do It My Way, I'll Resign!"

Sound familiar? For some of our members, their identification with a project or role is so all-consuming they can see no other viewpoints other than their own. This can be driven by the satisfaction they get from the role or by pure unadulterated ego. Either way, they do not deserve our criticism and condemnation – but they do deserve to be set straight. More on that later.

The effect this can have on other members can be significant. At its least offensive, it is an immature and petulant way in which to coerce other members to agree with the protagonist's views. At worst, it is blackmail and bullying behaviour designed to manipulate others through shock and fear. Other members are often left feeling used and devalued by such an exercise in coercion and power play.

Remember what happened to Julius Caesar when he played his hand too strongly? 'Et tu Bruté?

Erosion of Club Standards

When I first joined Lions some 11 years ago, one of the members I most looked up to often wore a shirt and tie to club meetings. His club blazer was worn not just on Changeover night but for every visiting Lion.

Coarse language was frowned upon (although the jokes were frequent and often a tad bawdy!). Members followed his lead and spoke with respect to the President and other members. Where did all that civility and common decency go?

I have sat in meetings where members have lost their temper, been abusive, openly criticised other members, have belittled the efforts of others, spoken disparagingly of members who were not present to defend themselves and done back room deals that left other members wondering where the heck their club was heading.

Is it any wonder we have trouble not only attracting new members but keeping our existing ones?

Is it any wonder that some of our most basic motives for being a Lion in the first place – feeling good helping others and doing it with like-minded people - are not being met and for some, being a Lion has become a miserable and unrewarding experience?

If we are not having fun, why the heck are we here?

In my past life as a Zonie I urged my clubs to have a great year and have FUN doing the SERIOUS work of helping others. Having fun is for me probably the key measure of the success of any of our clubs. It is not something that needs to be quantified or reported. It is something each and every member will recognise when it is there. It will 'feel' good. Others will see it. It will attract new members to your club. It will keep existing members coming back. It will be demonstrated in the joy and pride the club takes in performing its charitable role in your community.

If it is not there, you must ask yourselves – why? Is it being driven by the behaviours of a few or the lack of standards by the many? What do you most dread about your involvement in Lions and why?

Hope for the Future

If you think we are that different from the Lions of the past century, think again. They encountered the same human conditions we suffer today. The same human conditions that allow us to laugh and cry at the works of William Shakespeare half a millennia after his death. That is why the Lions of old came up with some startlingly up to date information to help us run our clubs – our Purposes and Ethics.

But how many clubs read these out at every meeting and never stop to question them or try to understand what they mean?

How many clubs have stopped reading them altogether?

I'm not going to repeat them word for word here. But I will paraphrase two key statements.

1."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."

Sounds a lot like putting others before yourself doesn't it?

If you have members who are putting themselves before the club or its members to seek their own 'reward', are they truly abiding by the Purposes of Lionism?

2."To be careful with my criticism, liberal with my praise and to build up and not destroy."

How does this match up with anger, conflict, derision, criticism, coercion, bullying and blackmail?

I would challenge every club to run an exercise this year to have each member take one of the Objects or Ethics and present it to the Club (paraphrase it if you must) with an explanation of how they think it applies to Lions today. Without criticism and without directing blame – just seek to understand the words and let each Lion assess where they are against the standard.

Next thing – if after reading this essay you find that you are not happy and you are not having fun as a Lion – SAY SOMETHING!

Bullies and braggarts get away with their behaviours in the school yard because kids are too scared to challenge them. So challenge them. Give them this article to read. Let them know how you feel and how their behaviour is affecting you. Give them a chance to respond and understand what you have said. Failing that, if they insist on doing it their way or threaten to resign, LET THEM. If it means letting go a project that brings in \$15,000 a year in order to save a club then LET IT GO. A club funded on cakes and mints with a happy and committed membership is a recipe for future success. A club making \$50,000 a year with an unhappy and divisive membership is a club in crisis that may not survive.

No member is bigger than the Club

A few weeks ago, partner Chris and I had the pleasure of sitting through one of the final matinees of the Lion King stage show. The music, costumes and choreography were superb. The message was clear and simple. As lions, we have a responsibility – the pride comes first. If we expect the species to survive we must nurture it, protect it and banish those things which threaten its long term viability. When we see behaviours ("questionable acts") that appear to be contrary to our values, we need to act. When those behaviours are jeopardising the health of the club, we need to act - immediately.

Ask for Help

Conflict is never easily overcome. If the members do not feel confident of resolving the matter themselves, it should be reported via the Zone Chairperson so that the Cabinet is made aware of the problems. Only then can the District Leadership take action to assist the club overcome the problems. We have lost clubs in recent years because Cabinet had no knowledge of how bad things had become apart from declining membership. Options for Cabinet include direct intervention or assigning a Guiding Lion to help the club get back on track.

Final Word

If we have trust in and live by the code laid down for us by our Lion forefathers, many of these conflict situations may never eventuate. However, even the best families sometimes have difficulties. Our Lions 'pride' is no different. The measure of our success is in our ability to deal with conflict and move on positively and with dignity. We should consider it the right of every Lion to enjoy their club's fellowship and activities to the fullest extent. When we ask that question – "are you having fun yet?" we should expect a hearty and resounding,

We are Lions and YES WE ARE

"1st Vice District Governor"

Grant Hewett



Y.O.T.Y. NATIONAL TOUR

Pictured from left to right. DG Terry Collinson, Kelly Phan (Vic), Bethany Williams (SA), Joseph Dwyer (Qld), William Lawrence (NSW), Riley Faulds (WA), Rowena Mc Phee (Tas) and Lion Maxine Collinson

On Sunday 8th January some two dozen Lions gathered at the Esplanade Hotel in Busselton to welcome the 6 state winners of the Youth of the Year to our lovely South West.

These friendly, articulate, clever young people had recently taken part in the Lions International Youth Camp in New Zealand where they had the opportunity to meet other youth from all parts of the world. They had a full weekend in the SW where it was planned that they see Busselton, Capel, Donnybrook, The Ferguson Valley (Gnomesville), Harvey and possibly Myalup Pines before arriving back in Perth for a busy week of visits to the Lions Eye Institute and Ear Science Institute before a final farewell dinner on Wednesday night.



East Fremantle

On the 9th of Dec we had a Swing Band Night at The Swan Yacht Club. (poster and pic attached Sorry there are not more I can provide).

It was a success, with a full room, and about 175 attending.

We held a raffle as well.

We had Jim O'Niell, the East Fremantle mayor draw the raffle tickets.

It was the first one, and we learnt a lot we will think about another in the future if all are happy to do that.

Recently we had made a Carnival Photo Booth (Strongman and luscious lady), where a man and woman and child (lower centre LIONS head) can put their heads into the holes and have a photo taken.

We used it at the George St Fair (see pic) and a Bunnings Christmas evening.

It has a donation tin on the front, but the main attraction was the fun and happy attention it drew.

It folds up flat and is simple to erect, and is quite robust. It may be borrowed by other clubs.

We will use it to good effect for all future public events such as BBQs and community events.

{Sorry East Freo the pics didn't reproduce well. Ed.}



201W2

Membership & Leadership Workshops

3rd Training weekend

Where: Myalup Pines Cottages

Date: 11th - 12th February 2017

**MEALS:
ALL MEALS PROVIDED**

**ACCOMMODATION:
4 COTTAGES AVAILABLE BRING
OWN BEDDING, PILLOWS &
TOWELS.**

**COST :
FREE TO ALL LIONS MEMBERS!**

**RSVP:
GMT Chairman: PDG Peter Lamb**

**Email:
gmtlions201w2@gmail.com**

Mob: 0447 711 162

**Reply Date:
Required by the 1/2/2017.**



Hijacked!

By Geoff Mabey.

The Manjimup LIONS train was the finale' for a spectacular Cherry Festival parade on a recent very hot summer's Saturday in Manjimup.

But just prior to the parade, the train was hijacked by a very colourful group of Fremantle samba drummers. The two Club members, LIONS Alan Lloyd and Geoff Mabey had left the train alone for five minutes to search for passengers.

On return they found the visiting Fremantle Samba Drumming Group had decided the train was a golden



opportunity for their own photo shoot. Lions obliged and allowed the group the photo shot, but firmly advised them they were not allowed to participate in the parade on the train.

The Club has a strict policy of no adults being allowed to ride the train.

Didn't matter. The group were scheduled to march in the parade anyhow and certainly proved to be a spectacular and colourful sight on their first visit to Manjimup.

LION Alan managed to find the four Cherry Blossoms who had been designated to ride the train and LION Geoff managed to find a bunch of Scouts to fill the rest of the carriages. These were the same Scouts who had been participating in the Flag Ceremony during the recent Southern Forests Convention.

The train was out and about in other events just prior to Christmas as it usually does. The Chamber of Commerce late night trading festivities date had been relocated to the Friday night of the Cherry Festival weekend and the move proved to be a good one with the train being very popular with the kids.