

Lions Clubs International

*District 201 V1-4
Third Annual Convention*



Persistence Pride Service

*Tooleybuc Convention Proceedings:
October 23rd to October 25th 2009:*

Hosted by the Lions Club of Swan Hill Inc.

MD 201 V1-4 CONVENTION MINUTES:

FRIDAY EVENING: October 23rd, 2009. Civic Reception held at the Swan Hill Pioneer Settlement Village, hosted by the Mayor of Swan Hill Councillor Greg Cruickshank.

Call to Order, Sergeant at Arms PDG Graham Allen:

Introduction of Official Party:

District Governor V1-4 Lion Jill Qualtrough and Lion Malcolm Qualtrough.

District Governor V6, Lion Allan Millar and wife Lion Rose.

Cr. Lois Lockhart, representing the Wakool Shire

PDG Ron Skeen OAM Manager "Youth and Community Projects".

Lion John Forrest Federal Member for the Mallee and Pam.

Peter Walsh State Member for Swan Hill.

Mr. Geoff Quinton nab Swan Hill Branch Manager.

Mr Ken Knight, CEO Swan Hill Aboriginal Health Service.

President of the Lions Club of Swan Hill, Lion Geoff Fisher and wife Lorraine

Mr Darrell Fishpool, CEO Tooleybuc Sporting Club.

Convention Chairman, PDG Graham Gaylard and Lion Maxine

Protocol established by S.A.A. Graham:

Traditional welcome to Country: Mr Ken Knight, CEO Swan Hill Aboriginal Health Service.

Invocation: Zone Chairman Julie Starec.

Flag Ceremony: Conducted by Lion Doctor Noel King and several Past District Governors.

S.A.A. Graham Allen: I would like to call forward the President of the Lions Club of Swan Hill, Lion Geoff Fisher who will welcome you to the Convention.

Lions Club of Swan Hill President, Geoff Fisher: Thank you; do not get too carried away. Evening Lions, gee there is a big crowd. Just before I start, are there any Rotarians here. I just thought I would check. My job is to welcome everybody here this evening, which is my pleasure. You have just come to one of the best kept secrets in Victoria and that is the Swan Hill District, and do not tell everybody cause we just like our layback like style here. Hope you enjoy your stay here and I know there has been a fair bit of work gone into this and Henry, who is also a Lion, is the President of the Club. It takes a fair bit to legislate to get poker machines and he has done that about six months ago and put that through Parliament so everybody can go home a winner. You can trust him as he is an ex - policeman and I'm a used car salesman. While I'm here I just would ask everybody to put their hands together for Graham Gaylard for doing a fantastic job organising this event. I know he does not want any accolades but Graham you deserve it and I hope everybody enjoys their stay here and if you do not enjoy yourselves it's your problem because everybody else will. Hopefully we will get a lot out of this for Lionism and I hope you have a good weekend. Thank you.

S.A.A. Graham: Thank you President Geoff. It is know my pleasure to introduce to you Councillor Lois Lockhart, who is representing the Wakool Shire and Lois will welcome us to Tooleybuc and open the Convention.

Councillor Lois Lockhart: Official guests, visitors and members. It is my pleasure to welcome you here tonight and welcome you all on behalf of the Wakool Shire and there is an apology from the Mayor as he has a family wedding this weekend, so I am deputising for him. We hope while you are here at Tooleybuc you enjoy all the marvellous facilities, perhaps have time to walk around or visit the local wineries or just drive around out little rural area. It is a rather special place. I'm for ever amazed the things that Lions Clubs do and I know you assist organisations both in Australia and overseas and I would like to say that two of our daughters had Lions exchange trips when they were just finishing school, one went to America and one went to Denmark. They were marvellous experiences for them and it gave them a better education of the big wide world and it gave them a taste for travel later on too. Anyway I would just like to open the Convention now and welcome you all to Tooleybuc and I hope you have a marvellous time. Thank you.

S.A.A. Graham: Thank you Councillor Lockhart. I would like to call forward the Chief Executive Officer of the Tooleybuc Sporting Club Mr. Darrell Fishpool.

C.E.O. Darrell Fishpool: D.G. Jill members of the Lions family and guests.

Welcome to the jewel of the Murray. We are very proud, as Councillor Lockhart said, of our great little Club here and it was thirty one years ago when this Club started off as a couple of members went up to Tamworth for a visit and they decided they needed a place where people could have a good time. It grew very quickly from a little Club into an outstanding base and with changes coming in we hope that it will keep going and it is wonderful that have all you people visiting us.

Darrell explained the Club's ground rules to the audience indicating the areas out of bounds to the conventioners, the signing in procedures and pointing out the gaming room. Darrell also invited conventioners to play golf or to have a game of lawn bowls.

We have the bar and the friendly staff to cater for you and all I can say is to have a great weekend and to you Graham Gaylard I must say it's been a pleasure working with him to get this set up.

Have great weekend and thank you.

S.A.A. Graham: I would like to invite our District Governor Jill Qualtrough to thank our guests.

District Governor Jill Qualtrough: Lovely to see you all here. My job is to thank a few people here tonight. Just briefly, thank you to C.E.O. Darrell for his welcome; to the Lions Club of Swan Hill President Geoff for his welcome here tonight to Dr Noel King and the Past District Governors for the Flag Ceremony and to the Lions Club of Swan Hill members who have devoted such a lot of work for this weekend. For the Mayoral reception that we enjoyed in Swan Hill, Mayor Greg we appreciate that, and there are two special people I would like to thank right now. Firstly Mr. Ken Knight for your welcome to country and I have a small gift in appreciation, if you could come forward please. It is a Certificate of Appreciation from the Conventioners at Tooleybuc for your welcome and my personal Bannerette. And, Cr. Lois Lockhart, if you could come up please. Again Lois thank you for your words of welcome, a Certificate of Appreciation for you coming here tonight and welcoming us to your area and also my Bannerette. Thank you.

An explanation, as voiced by DG Jill, of her Bannerette detailing the logo and slogan.

The name Qualtrough comes from the Island of Man and I have taken their logo as my own. This three legged tree- cassyn symbol is on their flag and on their coinage. It was the Latin motto that attracted me to that symbol, quoconque-jeceris-stabit and it's not written on the Bannerette but the translation is "withersoever you throw it, it will stand". That's a bit like Lions no matter what we are doing or where we are going, we will always have a leg to stand on and we will handle it because we are Lions. So that's just to remind you that as Lions we can do anything.

S.A.A. Graham: Thank you D.G. Jill. It's my pleasure now to introduce to somebody who is going to make the night a lot lighter. I would like to introduce the Catalina Old-time Band.

But before that I would ask Mr. Geoff Quinton from nab to say a few words.

Mr. Geoff Quinton, nab representative: Thank you. This is sort of off the cuff as I have come representing some one else who could not come tonight and I was not told that I had to make a speech. On behalf of the nab I would like to wish you all a successful Convention. As most of you know the nab is a fairly large sponsor of Lions and the nab really believes in the importance of it and they like to see people in community support and community services and I'm told the nab will continue with their support for a long time to come. As I said before, I hope you have a great Convention and a great weekend. Thank you.

S.A.A. Graham: On behalf of DG Jill I would like to present to you her personal Bannerette and to thank you for your words.

Rest of night taken up with being entertained by the band, supper and general catching up with everyone.

SATURDAY OCTOBER 24th 2010

S.A.A. Graham: Open Convention proceedings with explanation of Club rules regarding signing in, emergency evacuation and to turn mobile phones off. On a sad note, just to let you know that on the news this morning there has been another devastating earthquake in Indonesia, so I will keep you informed of any further information.

Invocation: Zone Chairman Graham Wontner.

Lions Purposes: Club President Gayle Marett.

Lioness Pledge: Lioness Liaison Chairman, Mary Jolly.

Leo Club Purposes: Leo Chairman Henry van der Wolde

S.A.A. mentioned lost property and same could be collected from him during the Convention.

Conventioners asked to check their satchels for forum information as S.A.A. will be looking for a indication of numbers who will be attending the individual forums.

S.A.A. introduced the top table

District Governor, Jill Qualtrough, Cabinet Secretary PDG Ron Thomas, Cabinet Treasurer Paul Tjioe, Constitution & By-Laws Chairman PDG Arthur Uren and .S.A.A. PDG Graham Allan.

District Governor Jill Qualtrough:

Welcome to this third Convention here at Tooleybuc and very capably hosted by the Lions Club of Swan Hill. Thanks guys and girls too.

I would particularly like to welcome our guests here this morning. The V6 District Governor Allan Millar and his wife, Lion Rose: MD Youth & Community Projects Manager Past District Governor Ron Skeen OAM: Lions Club of Swan Hill President Geoff Fisher and wife Lorraine. Some one else I would like to acknowledge is the audio specialist, Andrew Bennett. Thank you to those people for being part of the Convention and thank you for your assistance you have provided or will be providing over the weekend.

Some people I would like to make a special note of, and welcome to, are our first Conventioneers. If you have never been to a District Convention before could you stand up please, as I would like to acknowledge you, (twenty stood) could you come up the front please as we have a first Conventioneers ribbon for you. Somebody else I would like to acknowledge is IPDG Alan Crilly and Lion Marg. All other PDG's please stand and be acknowledged. How many current Presidents do we have here today please? If you are a member of a Club who has inducted a new member since our last Convention, please stand. Next year, in Maryborough, let's see if everyone can stand for that one.

I would also like to acknowledge our Melvin Jones and Progressive Melvin Jones, would you please stand. Our William R Tresize Fellows, Ian Stockdale Recipients, James D. Richardson Recipients, Dr. Harry Jenkins Fellows, James McLardie Awardees, Lions Quest Awardees, Neil Williamson Awardees, Win. Tyquin Awardees, Helen Keller Awardees and any Key members. Wonderful.

Now I also have one great presentation to make, I actually have two but one recipient is not here today so I will attend that persons Club and present it there. It's a Presidents Excellence Award awarded to some one whose Club thought enough of them and the job they did as President last year to apply for this Award. The person has fulfilled all the criteria for the Presidents Excellence Award, so Marie Caven would you come up please. Congratulations Marie.

Once again, welcome to Tooleybuc and enjoy the Convention.

S.A.A. Graham: Thank you DG Jill. I would like to call forward Cabinet Secretary Ron Thomas for a Credentials Report.

Cabinet Secretary PDG Ron Thomas: DG Jill, Conventioneers one and all. It is with a great deal of pleasure I present to you this Credential Report. All together we have one hundred and nineteen registrations. There are ninety nine Lions, nine Lionesses, no Leos and eleven Past District Governors and there are thirty two Clubs registered here. In the Delegate side of things, we have forty seven registered Delegates, at the moment, and that consists of Delegates from Clubs and PDG's. Realising that that there are others who have to pick up their Delegate forms I think out of fairness to those, the office will be open five or ten minutes prior to voting. So, those Delegates who are here and have not got their voting cards as yet can come to our office and be authorised to vote when voting comes up later in the day. With that I would like to move that this Report be accepted as presented. Thank you.

S.A.A. Graham: I would like you to grab your voting card, the nice bright yellow ones, hold them nice and high so that we came establish a quorum. OK, as long as we have those numbers, at least, we wont have any problems for the rest of the weekend. DG Jill it's my pleasure to hand the Convention over to you for your Business Session.

DG Jill: Thank you S.A.A. Graham. I would like to call up Constitution & By-Laws Chairman Arthur Uren for adoption of the Rules of Debate & Procedure.

Constitution & By-Laws Chairman PDG Arthur Uren: Thank you DG Jill, members of the Lions family and guests.

It is with pleasure I submit the Constitution & By-Laws Report to this Convention. To get this session underway this morning, I am pleased to say, firstly, the call for Notices of Motion and Nominations in writing by the Cabinet Secretary PDG Ron in accordance with the Constitution & By-Laws was completed and forwarded to all Clubs within the required time frame. At this point in time I wish to report that we have received three general Notices of Motion that will be debated during the Business Session of this Convention. Additionally I wish to advise that a number of nominations for the various positions have also been received and we will hear a report from the Nominations Chairman, PDG Barry Davis, in due course.

The Notices of Motion received by Cabinet Secretary Ron have passed the criteria for Notices of Motion as outlined in the District Constitution & By-Laws. Debate on each of the Notices of Motion will be in accordance with the Rules of Debate, as printed in the Convention papers and in the interest of time I do not intend to elaborate on those rules. The Notices of Motion can be found on pages 16 to 18 of the Convention booklet, voting of course will be by the Delegates card, and to simply vote, hold your Delegates card high as requested by the District Governor at the appropriate time.

The card is clearly bright yellow and if we need to conduct a count at any time, I will, at the request of the District Governor and the process will be undertaken to count the cards to work out if a Motion is passed or lost. Lions will be strategically placed around the room, so when you are asked to vote, please hold your cards high. Any delegate who wishes to submit an amendment to a Notice of Motion should do so in writing within a suitable time frame and if it's not possible during debate we will give you a few minutes to prepare your amendment and to speak at the appropriate time.

DG Jill that is my Report and I so move that it be accepted.

Seconded by PDG Nancy Dean, LC of Mount Bolton & District. Carried.

D.G. Jill: All the Chairman's Reports have been printed in the Booklet so I have had a chance to read those. If you have not, a bit of speed reading will be required and I would like someone to move that we adopt those Chairman's Reports as printed, please.

Motion to accept Chairman's Reports moved by IPDG Alan Crilly, LC of Ultima and seconded by PDG Helen Campbell, LC of Essendon. Motion carried.

S.A.A. Graham: I would like to ask the people on the top table if they would like to move down to the floor level and ask PDG Pauline Harris to come forward to introduce our Guest Speaker.

PDG Pauline Harris: I would like to thank DG Jill for giving me the opportunity of introducing to you PDG Ron Skeen OAM.

But before I invite him to the podium I would just like to give you an outline of his history.

Ron has been a Lion for twenty years and he has held, at his Club level, President, Vice President, Treasurer, Membership Director and Secretary. Ron has also been fifteen years on Cabinet positions and the positions which have been Region Chairman, Leadership, Constitution, Treasurer, Secretary, and Public Officer. I had the great pleasure of working with Ron in 1999-2000 as Vice District Governors and also in 2000-01 as District Governors. I also had the pleasure working with Ron because it was he then moved on to become a Trustees of the Australian Lions Children Foundation where Ron served five years as a Trustee and also four years as the Chairman. For his dedication to the Lions Service Organisation Ron has been recognised with many major recognitions. Some of those are the Progressive Melvin Jones, William Tresize Fellow, International Presidents Appreciation Award Certificate, Ian Stockdale Humanitarian Award, James D. Richardson, David Hart Silver Award, Barry J Palmer Recognition Award, Mary Jamieson Recognition Award, Dr. Harry Jenkins Fellow Award, Keith Small Gold Award, NSW / ACT Foundation and Order of Australia Medal, Life Member of the NSW Public Health Foundation and the Order of Australia Medal. I do not know how Ron had been able to do all this, but he is a married man and does have a lovely wife, Carolyn with two lovely daughters, one who lives in America, who Ron will be seeing at Christmas time. If anyone has ever heard the song "I've been every where" that really covers Ron for the many places he has in his business life. He is a very busy man and today he has travelled from Canberra to Tooleybuc to talk to us today and I would like you to give him a warm welcome to the podium please.

PDG Ron Skeen OAM: Good morning. District Governor Jill, members of the Lions family and guests. I stood at the Convention at V6 last week and said I have got one of the best jobs in Lions and this is to be involved with youth projects. That means, as Manager, I get to oversee such things at Youth of the Year, Leos, Youth Exchange, Peace Poster and of course the Mobility Foundation. I am Chairman of the Prostate Cancer Awareness Project and they are all magnificent projects, particularly the Youth Projects, and of course there is a forum later on in the day which will talk more about them. But I have been asked to talk specifically today on the Mobility Foundation and usually when I do an address, the full gamut of my portfolio, I always say that I'm a little bit biased towards it and I am for the very reason that PDG Pauline outlined. Now you might be wondering why I am here as Manager and what a Manager does? I would just like cover off on that before I go into the Mobility Foundation because a lot of people might not know what a Multiple District Manager does. Now you do have Chairman that head up each of your Multiple District Projects, there is PDG John Thorpe who looks after Peace Posters. They actually run the Programmes, my role is to be that link between the Governors and them, and in some cases I attend their meetings I bring forward their concerns, their needs, help them with their budgets and make sure they do not overspend and they do the right thing, as it is your money. And the other direction is that I go back with the Governors concerns, problems and issues, back to the actual Committee. Now twenty years ago that might not have happened but understandably now we are more scrutinised than ever. We do have obligations to Government issues. I did ask the MD CEO if the Managers were not there, would that effect his staffing and he said he would need one more staff and possible one and a half staff and all of a sudden you are talking a \$100,000 plus dollars. I can tell you that we do it for a lot less. We do not get paid; we are volunteers, like you. I might have an extra zero on my pay, that's all. That's what we do. Getting back to the actual presentation today and it's the Mobility Foundation and I think it's one of the best Foundations we have ever had. I go back ten years, 1998, 201N5 Convention.

One of the highlights was the appearance of a little girl named Elena and she was in her recently acquired Hart Walker and that set the scene that was to happen the following year at M D. Now I think we should establish a couple of important facts in the formation of this Foundation, and that is the City of Ryde who funded the Walkers and a couple of driving forces who were behind it even getting to that stage, and you probably wonder where the names of two of the Awards come from. Mary Jamison was not even a Lion but her husband was. She first saw this Hart Walker in use and saw a need for it and pushed for her husband's Club to get involved. Of course, then a PDG Barry Palmer saw what was going on and saw that that this was really worthwhile for Lions to get involved with. So the project moved on to Brisbane in May 1999. As PDG Pauline mentioned we were VDG's back at that particular time and that was the first time we met in Brisbane. Of course, one of the big things on stage was the promotion of the Mobility Foundation and we would seek funding provided through the Lions Mint programme of \$350,000 and the Foundation began. Lions established the Foundation to provide funding for the Hart Walker programme and other mobility aids for children with disabilities around the country, Lions provided funding for the Spastic Centre of NSW for the Hart Walker programme. And at this point, I should say, that the Hart Walker programme is not the Lions Hart Walker programme and that sometimes gets confused as it is actually the Spastic Centre of NSW that has the programme and a part of our goals is to support that and as I said, other like programmes. Outside the home of the inventor, David Hart, that's outside the UK, Australia is the leading user of the Hart Walker and of course it's designed to give hands free mobility. Now, when the Foundation was formed it was decided to have Trustees in every State and every Territory, and in some States there are actually two, and you have two in this particular State. If you want to know more have a look at the web-site, you can go direct to that address or you can follow links through the Australian web-site. Just to let you know who we do have in terms of organisational structure in Australia. Currently we have a Chairman in Carole Powell, a Secretary, Christine Forrest, Registrar Ray Dix and Ray goes right back to the very start of the Foundation and Treasurer PDG Tim Irvine. You also have Trustees, some of which are holding the position I just mentioned, in NSW you have Carole Powell and Beverley Von Stein who also looks after the ACT. In Queensland you have Christine Forrest, Tasmania Kae Campbell, V Districts you have Trevor Worth and Helen Maunsell who is your Trustee for this particular District, and C District, Val Dix. Unfortunately in the W Districts at the moment we do not have a Trustee, but PDG Tim Irvine, who used to be a Trustee, keeps an eye on things for us. The Foundations motto is simply "Walk with Pride". When we sat down and tried to put together a meaningful Foundation, something we could go out and seek funding from outside sources we realised we had to have a motto, a Mission Statement we had to have some Objects as you cannot exist without having some reason to exist. We were looking for a Motto like "We Serve" we wanted it to be really simple and not a longwinded Motto and this is what we came up with "Walk with Pride". Our Mission Statement is to fund mobility devices for children with disabilities giving these children a chance to walk and understand that what it's about, it's about the opportunity to walk. Our Objects are to provide funding and support for mobility devices for children with disabilities to assist them to walk and to seek direct funding from Lions Clubs International to co-ordinate the various projects between Lions Clubs and special support organisations to promote Foundations with, and seek funding from outside and to use National programmes as "Walk for a Aussie Kid" to promote the Foundation, and meet all funding. Just to give you a bit of an idea of the update made over the past ten years with the Foundation. We have fitted fourteen hundred Walkers and that's fourteen hundred young people who can now stand upright and are able to have their organs develop, their muscles develop, increase their life span by many many years. Now some of these children, if we did not get them upright and moving around would not be with us now. A lot of them will have a reasonable sort of life span for what we have done. Of those fourteen hundred Walkers five hundred are Hart Walkers. I am pleased to report the five hundredth was fitted in Canberra about a month to six weeks ago and if you look at your last Lion magazine there would be a photograph of it and I can further report that it was actually my Club. The really impressive figure of course is that we have raised over seven and a half million dollars. Not too bad in ten years. Some of the things that people get misled on and I raise this one as a fact sheet. The Foundation does not select Walkers, as a club you can not go through a list of Walkers and say I like that one or I like that one because it's a bit cheaper than that one. The bottom line is we have no say in that. We are there to support the funding, the actually various Spastic Centres and Associations with their experts are the ones that say "that's the walker for that child". And we do not order the Walkers so we do not have any control over the price of them, there is no shopping around, we are very much in the hands of the suppliers. The foundations sole purpose is to seek funding so that they can have the Walkers. How many Walkers are there?

List of devices as shown on the screen number fifty and in my conversations with Registrar Ray Dix there are probably more. We are not just the Hart walker programme and there are in fact two Hart Walkers, there is a heavy duty and a conventional one.

Various Walkers displayed on screen with commentary.

What impact does the Hart Walker have on people? Development of posture is very important. If anybody has ever seen the fittings of a Hart Walker you will realise that the children, before they are fitted into the walker are a ball of jelly and to get them upright and to get the posture developed, get those organs developed, just general health, overall health well being and that's what it's all about and just to give them the opportunity to do what other kids do and that is to get around and somebody made the statement about feeling the breeze on their back.

Any request can come from any source. It can be a family that first alerts a Club to the need, it could be a physiotherapist that alerts a Club or the Foundation. Sometime the Foundation finds out themselves, some times the Spastic Centre lets us know but mostly it's the Spastic Centre. But it's a matter of just being aware of it and if you live in a small community you will find quite often others know if there is a child who is twelve or eighteen months old. DG Allan from V6 is aware of a young child who is eighteen months and probably going to be another eighteen months before they can get into a walker but the Club is starting to save money now. So that's where Club's become aware of the situation before the Spastic Centre would even know about it. So, when that happens there is a process that we go through and that's what that flowchart is all about. There is process we go through and that process is largely dictated by the Spastic Centre, it's based on assessment, on need and we eventually get feedback on what is required then we will go out and try to obtain the funding either by what viable means are available to the foundation. And how do we get our funding? Obviously in terms of raising money as a Foundation itself such initiatives as "Walk for an Aussie Kid", direct donations, sponsorships, merchandise sales and Foundation Awards.

"Walk for an Aussie Kid" in fact was the launch pad in 2004-05 and it was done with about four hundred school children at Aussie Stadium in Sydney. And they were very clever and found a map of Australia and Tasmania, DG John is not with us this weekend but he would have been pleased with that. We got some media coverage on that particular one but that does not happen very often but then you do not get Aussie Stadium to launch something, so that was a prior opportunity I took but you know the "Walk for an Aussie Kid" was designed to be there for you to raise money as a Club. We intend to launch in a round about way by the third weekend in September but a Club that wants to run it at any time during the year it's OK. It is an awareness as much as anything else, you do not have to raise a lot of money but just ensure your community becomes aware that you have got this Foundation and if you have a couple of children in your area that you can bring to that launch. It allows the public to have a look at what we are doing, there is so much that we do not show people and it's really a heart wrenching thing to do.

Direct donations from Clubs and outside organisations are always sought and will always be encouraged, so if you are doing your end of year disbursements and you have not had a child you can fund, but you still think it's a worth while project to be involved with, do not forget you can make donations and you can even reserve those now, as we did not originally but now you can reserve those donations to award to somebody in the future. Merchandise Sales: Not a big fund raiser but like all the Foundations and all the Projects we all try to have some merchandise now days. Things like polo-shirts, hats and various items, so you will be looking, particularly at Convention time and if have got a stand, get some merchandise and flog it off. It's all helpful. It might be \$600 here \$100 there but at the end of the day that's where some of the \$7-5 million comes from and it's hard yakka by the Trustees and District Chairman to do it but they are important. Our Foundation Awards: I think most Presidents and most DG's towards the end of their year look at rewarding people's efforts during the year, but more importantly they are looking to disburse some of those funds. Now there are so many Foundations and worthwhile appeals that you can put money into now days but I will show you what is available with the Mobility Foundation. You have got the Platinum Award. The Gold Award, Silver and Bronze Award, you have got the two older Awards, the Barry J. Palmer Recognition and the Mary Jamieson Recognition Certificate. Just to let you see what they look like, the Barry Palmer Recognition Award is a donation of \$1000 and the Mary Jamieson is a donation of \$500 and these Awards are ones that have been initiated by the Foundation and as you can see, they are fairly sizable, but there are Clubs who have managed to get significant co-operate Awards donations. I should say and that's when you would use the really big ones, like the Platinum or Gold, \$5000 and \$1000 respectfully and probably even the Silver. The Bronze Award is probably for a Club member.

Put it this way, if a Club has raised a lot of money and there has been one person at the helm then there is an opportunity to recognise that. Money is the name of the game like all Foundations you give whichever is appropriate. If you are looking to get involved, how? I guess if there is not a child around and let's hope that God willing that you have not got children that are afflicted in your part of the world and if it's the case and you ask how we can get involved. We do have a lot of children that were able to get funding for the initial Hart Walker programme but with the Hart Walker there are fittings that need adjustment and new boots that are required annually requirement and there is a \$1,000 upkeep on that particular programme, so there is the opportunity to adopt a Hart Walker child who has already got the Walker, you do not have the initial outlay, which I think is \$6,620 but for \$1,000 a year you can adopt that Hart Walker so there is opportunities. After, from feeling good about yourself and getting involved \$1,000 a year is probably a lot easier to raise than \$6,000. It's a couple of bar-b-ques and you have got the money. Maybe one good bar-b-que and you have the money and of course the thing you really need to do is to look beyond your boundaries. There is not always going to be a child in your particular area and as I said before, God willing, why would anybody wish to have a child with an affliction that these people have. So, if you want to get involved look outside your boundaries as it might be within your own District or there might be a Melbourne Club or Swan Hill or some where that there is not a Lions Club just looking for assistance and you know we give money to LCIF not ever knowing where the money is going, so why not consider looking elsewhere. The fact that the child is well away in this day and age there is not a problem exchanging photos even "skype" on your TV you can be talking to the family on a regular basis, so distance is no restriction anymore. Now, that really is a snap shot of the Foundation and the good thing about Chairman of the Foundation for a number of years is that a lot of material came to me and those members of V4 will remember this and it was back in 2004 that you actually had a fitting on stage and I still have this in my archives and I thought that V4 people might like to have another cry and of course the V1 people, I guess, would not have necessarily seen it before.

Tape of fitting a Hart Walker to Ian Donaldson donated by the Lions Club of Sebastopol & District.

Thank you.

S.A.A. Graham: I would like to like call up Marilyn Meadows from the Lioness Club of Ballan to give a vote of thanks.

Lioness Marilyn Meadows: PDG Ron on behalf of DG Jill we would like to thank you most sincerely for the interesting talk you have given. I'm a member of the Ballan Lioness Club and I believe we have just become the first Lioness Club that has given money to support a Hart Walker without the support of our Lions Club. The Ballan Lioness Club has been running an "OP" shop for the past twelve months and for the ten hours per week we have raised over \$40,000. We have given a lot of support to our Fire Brigade, the Hospital and it was our pleasure to give money for the Hart Walker.

A little Turkish girl, a five years old who was pushed into the room in a pusher and just lying back and she was fitted into the Hart Walker, she did not take off like the little boy but I think it's going to make a lot of difference to her to be upright for a change instead of lying down. So we are all looking forward to seeing how she is going after six weeks which is obviously a month away and it's been a great thing to take part in the programme.

Presentation made to Guest Speaker PDG Ron Skeen.

S.A.A. Graham: I would like to call to the podium PDG Helen Campbell to speak on QUEST.

PDG Helen Campbell; DG Jill Conventioneers one and all.

Lions Quest, that is an unusual name and we wonder what LQ is about. Lions Quest is really Lions Quest Institute Australia and Lions Quest, some fifty years ago was discovered by a Lion in America. He went on a Quest, looking for a programme that would teach children social and emotional skills and came up with this programme for both primary and secondary skills to year nine. Now we have Skills for Adolescence and Skills for Growing. It's a wonderful programme in twenty two countries throughout the world and it's very strong here in Australia and in particular in Queensland. We are trying to get it off the ground here in Victoria; it's in a number of schools but not in as many as we would like it, especially when we hear, unfortunately about the behaviour of children and students in Victoria at the moment. So I just say if we took the Lions Quest programme to the schools we would be right.

It's a teaching programme for teachers where an accredited training day that we train the teachers and then part of the day training is to learn how to use the kit in the classroom and present that programme to the children as a curriculum programme over a whole term or two terms or what the teachers decide to use it for.

We also have Lions Quest Awards. These Awards are not very well known but I think we should really start promoting the Awards and the money that we gain from people who buy the Award and giving the Award to their Club members and to people in the community. The money goes towards putting together the kits that we have for the teachers or also for the materials that we have to print.

There are three Awards, again we have the Platinum, Gold and Silver and the dearest is \$1,000 and as low as \$200-00. We also have a logo, a Lions Quest Bear. Now this weekend, if you buy a Lions Quest pin for \$5-00 you will get a ticket in the Quest bear raffle, so I hope I can sell many many pins so someone will be lucky enough to get a bear. We also have our little bears for 50c; I think they are very good value so come to my stand and buy a pin you can have a ticket in the bear raffle.

What can you do as Clubs for Lions Quest? You can promote the Quest or the programme in schools, you can contact me and see if any of your schools would like to have the programme, then we get a training day up and then have an accreditation day for the teachers to be trained. The trainer is Donna Monroe who comes from Sydney to do the training and once the teachers have done the training they get their kit which is included in the cost of the training day, so we need more teachers trained in this programme, so if anybody knows of any school we can either train all the teachers in the schools especially if there is a primary or secondary or you can have a day of teachers from various schools. If you have any questions or you want to know more about the Quest come to my stand. Thank you.

S.A.A Graham: Thank you PDG Helen and I would like to invite Geoff Windmill to come forward and speak about Lion Mints.

Cake & Mints Chairman Geoff Windmill: DG Jill members of the Lions family and guests. My name is Geoff Windmill a member of the Lions Club of Robinvale & District and I'm the Cake and Mint Chairman and I'm allowed to speak about one subject at a time so I'm going to talk about cakes. As you will have noticed, they have increased by a little amount to \$13-00 per cake for 1.5 Kg. and up to \$10-00 for the 1 Kg. Always remember, the earlier you buy the better the price you get and the more profit you make. We had a little bit of a hic-up at the start of the year, the sample price in the Cake manual was wrong and I hope every Club here got notification to say what order form you had to use. Do not use the order form in the manual, they are wrong. You will also notice that we are now handling Christmas puddings and they come in two sizes, a 1 KG pudding that sells for \$15-00 and a twin pack in a 125 gram pack that sells for \$9-10. There is also, from T.F.M., a gourmet fruit cake that sells for \$20-00. Anybody got any questions? Thank you.

S.A.A. Graham. Thank you Geoff. If Julie Starec could come forward and say a few words about "Children of Courage".

Chairman Julie Starec. I have the portfolio of "Children of Courage". I would like to see "Children of Courage" in each District in Australia. It's not commonly out there yet but I would like to see it get out there. Children of Courage was started in WA and it started in 1983, they started this project with five recipients of this Award. This Award goes to children that have a disadvantage.

There are three categories of this Award.

Special needs, courageous act and outstanding sports achievements. Children that receive these Awards help their self esteem, all the children want is to be accepted regardless of any other needs that they have. These Awards portray them as children who have successfully overcome individual barriers which face them in this world. The children who receive these Awards together with their families and members of their nominated Club will gather for a presentation. Now, getting back to the recipients of the Award. A lot of these recipients are very hard to find and this is where people in Clubs come in to find these children and a lot of the time they are very hard to find. In WA when they started these Awards, often recommended by Hospitals, the Heart Foundation, the Arthritis Association and here we have SCOPE Australia as well the Spastic Society and these Awards help these young children individually achieve things that may not seem impossible. When they get a certificate and a plaque, these individual plaques are inscribed for the young people to cherish that they have these plaques and they have these to cherish for a long time and they look back on it and it's something that helps their self esteem. It's something that they may never run or play sports so the idea of getting a trophy is something to put on the wall or mantle piece is something that many children take for granted because they are healthy and can get these things. Here these children really cherish the thought that they are like everybody else and they have a plaque and a certificate to say how good they can be.

These children overcome great diversity in life, they have a lot of time, for instance, Ian Donaldson who we saw get a Hart Walker, our District at the time was V4, and he was also a child in 2005 that received Children of Courage Award. There are a lot of Clubs out there who do not take part in this Children of Courage and I must say that it's a very heart wrenching to hear some of their stories. I have a lot of paper work on Children of Courage, so if you want to come and see me I will have the forms already to take back to your Clubs.

These Awards cost your Clubs \$50-00 to sponsor a child, \$50-00 is not that much and \$50-00 could make all the difference to a child. The happiness in a child's face when they get these Awards and I encourage you to take this back to your Clubs and think about taking part in this Children of Courage. As I said, it started in WA in 1983 with five recipients by 1997 there were over seventy five getting these Awards and I spoke to a member of the Mandurah Lions Club where the PDG Joe Mason was the founder of this project. They had over two hundred for this Award this year and we have not hit double figures yet. Well it's my year and I really do think that we will hit double figures for sure. Some of you may have read in the Lion that came out a couple of weeks ago that PDG Joe Mason is in a home at the moment, he is ninety two years old and he did just receive an OAM Award from the Governor in WA for his achievements through Lionism and one that was acknowledged was the starting up of the Children of Courage. That's all I would like to say on it but try and get behind it as it's a very worthwhile portfolio for me to have, it's very heart wrenching it's hard to find these recipients for this Award.

S.A.A. Graham. Thank you Julie.

Four Forums mentioned and details of participants.

Youth Services will include PDG Ron Skeen OAM, Henry van der Wolde, (Leos) PDG Pauline Harris (Children Mobility & Children with Cancer) David Mark (Youth Exchange) Julie Starec (Children of Courage) Melissa Tung (Peace Posters & Letters to Father Christmas)

Membership Forum will include 1st VDG Graeme Lukey, IPDG Alan Crilly, 2nd.VDG Phil Sheriff and PDG Graham Allen---MERL Forum

Communications Forum will include Harry Brindley (Public Relations) Malcolm Qualtrough (Internet) PDG Ron Thomas (Cabinet Secretary)

Community Services Forum will include PDG Helen Campbell (Lions Quest, Licola etc)

PDG Margaret Sheriff (Foundations) Geoff Windmill (Cakes & Mints) Len Cassidy (Drug awareness) Sam Tung (Environment) Bob Turner (Health) Mary Jolly (Lionesses) PDG Ross Wood (Disaster Relief & Lions Alert).

Recess called, resume back at 10-45am

S.A.A. Graham. We are now moving into the first of the Business sessions and before that, I would like to call forward our Cabinet Secretary for an updated Credentials report.

Cabinet Secretary PDG Ron. Thank you SAA Graham. DG Jill, Conventioneers one and all.

Just an update on the report I gave you earlier today. There was a question about how many actual guests were here. I can not answer that at the moment but I will certainly endeavour to find out for you. Apart from that the only increase in numbers is an increase in registration of Delegates in Clubs and PDG's. That has gone up from forty seven to fifty nine and that's great to have fifty nine people representing their Clubs. Thank you

S.A.A. Graham. Thank you Cabinet Secretary Ron. By my rough calculations thirty is required for a quorum. So if I could see your Delegate cards, thanks. We have a quorum.

Thank you DG Jill the floor is yours.

DG Jill. Thank you SAA Graham. A couple of little announcements before we move into the General Business. Sitting down on the front table is a rather scary creature. It was auctioned sometime ago and the winner of that auction has donated him back again to be re auctioned to raise some more money for the Lions Drug Awareness Foundation. The second announcement: There is a Lions family day and opening day at Charm Lake, Birchip on November fifteenth this year, starting at 10am and everyone is welcome and it's not just for the Zone but for Lions and friends. If you need more details contact the Birchip Club their contact details are in the Directory.

Notice of Motion Number 1: Attached to Minutes of Convention Proceedings.

DG Jill: Do I have an indication of somebody to move this Motion please.

Graham McDonald LC of Bendigo: Moved the Motion

Malcolm Qualtrough LC of Strathfieldsaye: Seconded the Motion.

DG Jill: Is there an indication of a speaker against the Motion? No indication.

Graham McDonald: DG Jill I would like to speak to the Motion.

Conventioneers and guests. On your seat is a brochure about Righteous Pups and I hope that some of you had a look and a read of this brochure as there is a lot of good information about Righteous Pups in it. So the question is who are these Righteous Pups? Righteous Pups started in Bendigo in 2003, they are a non profit organisation governed by the a community based Board of Management that is made up of professional and business men who have time to commit to making our community a better community and assisting the disadvantage in our community. Righteous Pups was started by two young women with a passion for this project that you don't often see. The enthusiasm of Jo and Kelly is amazing and to sell this programme they have visited every State in Australia except WA, but that is on the agenda. Another question that you might have is why Lions would become involved with another assistance dog programme when we have Lions Hearing Dogs. Quite simply; because they give assistance to an entirely different group. In three weeks time the LC of Bendigo receives a Lions Hearing Dog for a member of our community. This is the third one we have had in about 6 years but we still see that Righteous Pups fills a niche that is un-met in our community at the moment. In last Saturdays Age half of page three was about Autism assistance dogs. Now these dogs came from America and it was trained at "Paws for Ability" which is where Kelly and the other trainers of Righteous Pups have learnt their training. The only reason that this family went to America for an Autism assistance dog, there are five members in the family and they all have Autism disorders. The youngest boy, Simon, who is eight, his parents had to lock him in at night in his bedroom so he would not nick off. Now, Galaxy is the dogs name and he sleeps on Simon's bed and the door does not have to be locked. So that's the sort of impact that these dogs can have on a family. We saw earlier the sort of impact the Hart Walker has on a family, assistance dogs have exactly the same impact. A different disability but the same outcome. Righteous Pups are a self funding organisation and receive no Government funding and raise the money themselves or in some cases the community raises the \$30,000 which is about the same money as a Hearing Dog. They raised half the money and the Chairman of Righteous Pups received a phone call asking what amount is owing for the dog to be placed in our community as you have that money now. I think this is a great programme and when you think about it and you look at the Lions LCI Vision Statement to be the teachers in Community and Humanitarian Services. It fits in beautifully, the LCI Mission Statement, to empower volunteers to serve their community and meet humanitarian needs, encourage peace and promote International understanding through Lions.

Bell signifies end of time to speak.

DG Jill: Would the Secunder like to speak please?

Malcolm Qualtrough: DG Jill Conventioneers.

Last February the eight Lions and Lioness Clubs in the Bendigo Zone met together and they voted unanimously to support the Righteous Pups project. We saw this as an opportunity for something different to advertise the Lions name but above all the need for Righteous Pups to operate is overwhelming. Our sister Clubs in V5 have already adopted an Autism assistance dog programme where Righteous Pups is the main recipient. So we have the back up of V5 and by voting for this motion you are voting for the support to an organisation of local people in our own back yard, which is Bendigo. You are basically voting for the rights of Clubs to assist if they want to over a three year period. Please support the eight Clubs who initiated this action especially the LC of Bendigo who have already put in many hours of work. Thank you.

DG Jill: As there was no indication of a speaker against, is there any further discussion before I put it to the vote. For - Against Motion carried unanimously. Thank you.

Motion number two: Attached to Convention Minutes Proceedings.

DG Jill: Is there a mover for this motion?

Murray Pope LC of Haddon: I formally move the motion.

Greg Crick LC of Haddon: I second the motion.

DG Jill: Is there an indication of a speaker against the motion.

Would the mover care to speak to the motion?

Murray Pope: Every Monday morning we turn on the wireless to be told that somebody has been knifed, bashed over the head with an iron bar or just kicked senseless. At night we sit to watch the news on TV and witness these bashings that have been captured on plain circuit TV. It's very sickening to see but we are assured by Chief Commissioner, Simon Overlander, that the situation is not as bad as it looks; it's just that the CCTV and the mobile phone and video just to make it appear worse. He must think the public stupid and if he can get his head out of the political fumed clouds and join the real world. Figures do not lie but lies can figure. As a result of this lives have been lost, people have received irreparable damage, and broken skulls, jaws, noses etc have been classified as minor damage. This lawless behaviour sickens me to the core and I trust it has the same effect on everyone at this Convention. If there are one hundred and fifty people in this room we could probably come up with seventy reasons as to why this behaviour has escalated like it has. The only reason that is important is if we can take the appropriate steps to win back the streets. Don't get carried away by thinking that this is only confined to the Melbourne as it's prevalent to all major cities. It's fairly obvious to point to a major cause of this behaviour when you read in the Herald Sun that twenty thousand liquor licences have been issued in the State of Victoria since 2000.

One would think that the Government does not want to remove this very profitable milking cow and all the revenue it brings in. The worse part of this problem is the cavalier attitude of the court system that apparently delight in handing down judgement that amount to severe slaps on the wrist for crimes that have altered peoples lives. I don't know the reason for this, but I do know that this attitude must change dramatically. Lion Gregg Crick will outline some ideas we would like to bring forward. Change must occur because at the moment the sentences are a joke and no deterrent what so ever. We urge the Government to implement zero tolerance to stem this violence. The police say it won't work, it worked in New York. I get the impression the authorities are not interested in stopping this epidemic of violence; it's too hard and may be an unpopular move that will cost votes at the next election. I quote Eddie McGuire in the recent Sunday Sun "we have become a nanny state in many ways with the "do gooders" trying too hard to save everyone from everything. What we need now is for the good people in Victoria to toughen up a bit and start demanding standards of ourselves rather than let somebody else set the standards". There is no doubt that a very vocal minority rule our State and while the silent majority sit back grumbling about what is happening and doing nothing about it. It is time the silent majority made themselves heard and reclaim their State and head down the path we want it to go.

DG Jill I would have thought if there was a politician in the room here at this moment who could take this message directly. I would also like to think that somebody from the press, who will put this in the paper, provided of course the Motion is carried. Thank you.

Greg Crick LC of Haddon: I would like to second the Motion.

The sentences being handed down by the courts are inadequate and completely out of touch with what public view as sufficient, inadequate jail sentences and Community Services are normally the form of punishment for these horrendous crimes that mark the victim's lives. We realise that jails are full and not enough staff is available to supervise Community Services properly but the recently revealed huge budget surplus that the Government will collect must be put to better use if possible and return law and order to our streets. Anyone involved with detention or criminals will tell you to punish someone properly you must remove them from their families for a period of time and that's what hurts them the most. At the moment they do a few hours of Community Service then it's back to their mates. They think that's a bit of a joke, it does not work out to be more than a slap on the hand, back of the wrist. Another form of punishment would be to instil some discipline with the law breakers and it would be a form of National Service that would involve them to learn an army type thing and learn the rightness and not the wrong stuff. We realise that the defence is not controlled by the Commonwealth Government and State Government but if it's serious about solving the problems surely arrangements can be made. Another suggestion made by David Burgess, Executive of the Chamber of Commerce is to form supervised gangs to remove graffiti of a Saturday night doing Community Service while their mates are having a lot of fun that ensures punishment for them.

By sending people to jail, might not be the right thing as people go, into jail they meet other criminals and are not being taught discipline, to just stand there and serve time and maybe by getting them into the community with some armed-----

Run out of time

DG Jill: Is there any discussion or questions? Chair recognises IPDG Alan Crilly.

IPDG Alan Crilly: More of a comment. Whilst the Motion was being read I checked our International Purposes and they do say _____

DG Jill: Is this a question?

IPDG Alan Crilly: It's a comment with a question down at the end. I'm commenting basically. We do say to provide a forum for open discussion of matters of all Public interest. We are not taking sides here, one way or the other. Now, I do question one area when it says "All organisational details of the Project, if successful the District Secretary is to write to the relevant organisations in consultation with the Lions Club of Haddon. I feel if this Motion is successful that the District would be responsible for it and it would not need the support of the Lions Club of Haddon in consultation.

DG Jill: Your question?

IPDG Alan Crilly: I would like those wordings to change to "if successful the District Secretary to write to the relevant organisations to gather petition support".

DG Jill: So you are moving an amendment?

IPDG Alan Crilly: The Notice of Motion is the one on the top isn't it? It's in the content of the Motion rather than the Motion itself. The Motion itself says "Petition the Government with respect to lawlessness and inadequate Community Service Order penalties". I'm talking of the wording behind the Motion.

DG Jill: No need for an amendment. Any further comment?

Cabinet Secretary PDG Ron Thomas: DG Jill. Just a grey area, I'm reading here "full organisational details of the project, if successful the District Secretary writes to relevant organisations in consultation with the LC of Haddon & District. Now if this is won and goes through it means that I will be dealing with the Lions Club of Haddon unbeknown to any other Club or part of the District. It would just be between me and the LC of Haddon. Now what I would really like to know now would be a better explanation of the full organisational details if the programme.

DG Jill: Does the mover or seconder have a comment?

Murray Pope: Yes I do District Governor. This question that PDG Ron has brought up was not even thought about as far as the L.C. of Haddon is concerned when we draughted the Motion. I believe this organisational details of the project came from the District itself, we know nothing about it.

Health Chairman Bob Turner: I would just like to ask basically what the petition is going to be, as we are backing a petition we are unsure of. I think it's a bit open and it's not as easy as putting something on paper. A lot of this comes with education of our youth because it's not just the youth that are causing the problem but you have to train them when they are younger so they don't get in to all this. So I think, to me, this needs to be in more detail. I don't understand what is actually in the petition and I would like to hear from them over what the petition would actually say before I vote.

Thank you.

DG Jill: I recognise PDG David Ashmore.

PDG David Ashmore: Thank you DG Jill. I think everyone is trying to put the horse before the cart. The actual Notice of Motion is that a petition to the Government in respect to lawlessness and inadequate Community Service Orders or penalties. All the rest underneath is only an explanation. My understanding is if this Motion does succeed then that line on Notice of Motion two, all the District Secretary has to do is write to the Government expressing the concerns of this District of the inadequate Community Service Order penalties that have been handed out.

DG Jill: Thank you. Are there any more comments before I put the Motion? Recognise C&BL Chairman PDG Arthur Uren.

C&BL Chairman PDG Arthur Uren: Thank you DG Jill. What PDG David Ashmore has indicated to you delegates is in fact correct. The Motion is from the word "be" to the last word "consideration". The rest is quite simply an explanation. How the Cabinet Secretary deals with the matter is in his hands and if he chooses to consult with the LC of Haddon then so be it.

DG Jill: The Motion was put.

Geoff Stubbs: Geoff issued a “Point of Order”. The Motion is “not” to petition the Government, the Motion is “be it resolved”.

DG Jill: The Motion was put and the voting was close and the Delegates were asked to stand, firstly “for the Motion” and then “against the Motion”. Motion carried.

Notice of Motion number three attached:

Motion moved by PDG Eric Gittins, L.C. of Northcote.

Motion seconded by PDG Pauline Harris, L.C. of Heidelberg –Warringal.

Graeme Lukey: DG Jill, just for clarification could the actual resolution be read out rather than the heading.

Request accepted and resolution read.

Z.C. PDG Eric Gittins: District Governor Jill, Delegates and Lions.

This is a house keeping matter within the Victorian Lions Rheumatism & Arthritis Medical Research Foundation. As you would probably be aware quite a number of years ago the Constitution was changed to allow for other Districts to partake within this Organisation. And that allowed us to be able to move the actual funds that we have, which is a quarter of a million dollars, to the Victorian Lions Foundation (VLF) which for our benefit has really reaped quite a fair bit of interest in that time. But unbeknown to us, when we approach other Districts, and all the Districts were approached, and what we thought was going to be three Districts ended up with only two. That being ourselves and V5 but we really did not know this at this particular point in time and what’s happened, the Constitution for the VLR&AMRF has stayed the same and what we want to do is to be able to change it. What was originally intended to have twelve members, four from each District, we cannot do that now. So this is why we want to seek the actual change to make it so that we can have six from our District and six from the other District, which is V5. Very basically if you look at what the changes are, and I counted seventeen somebody might count eighteen or sixteen. As I said it’s house keeping, it won’t effect anything here within V1-4. However, there is a little bit of a snag that I have been advised of and I will explain this particular part to you because it does change a little bit of how we go about it. And this is, there is a bit of a conflict with the V1-4 Constitution and what I’m going to ask you to do is to accept this “in principle”. By accepting this in principle it means that this will go to our next Convention in Maryborough, not this particular Notice of Motion but an amendment to the Constitution of V1-4 which will allow this to take full effect.

I hope I have explained reasonably correctly for you. There was some debate over this particular part of it and we needed to make certain that you delegates understood what the implications were so what we are actually asking is that you accept this “in principle” and allow this to go forward so that we can endeavour to have six members on our part of the Board, that’s three elected every other year. So in principle I would like you as Delegates to accept this as the Notice of Motion. Any questions, we will try and answer them in the best way. Thank you DG Jill.

DG Jill: Invite PDG Pauline Harris, seconder of Motion to speak

Chairman PDG Pauline Harris: I hopefully think that PDG Eric has explained it.

DG Jill: Any speakers against the Motion.

Chair recognises PDG David Ashmore.

PDG David Ashmore: I’m not speaking for or against, what I am asking the mover and seconder to consider is to add an amendment to the actual Motion to include “in principle” in the form of their Motion. It’s not in the Motion at the moment. You cannot accept “in principle” if it’s not there. So I would suggest to the mover and seconder that the words “in principle” subject to confirmation at the next Convention, be added.

DG Jill: Is the mover happy with that.

Z.C. PDG Eric Gittins: That’s acceptable. We are in favour of adding the words “in principle” to the end of this Motion.

DG Jill: All in favour. Against. Carried unanimously.

Chair recognises C&BL Chairman Arthur Uren.

C&BL Chairman PDG Arthur Uren: I think just to make sure that we have completed that amendment to the Motion correctly, at this stage I think we should have a mover and seconder for the amendment. We should vote on the amendment and if successful the amendment then becomes the Motion and I will then ask the Motion to be put. Just some house keeping making sure that we have got everything done correctly.

DG Jill: So is there a mover for the amendment. David are you moving that?

PDG David Ashmore: I asked the mover and seconder to indicate it in their Motion.

DG Jill: Eric, you changed your Motion to include the words “in Principle”. Pauline Harris, as seconder is happy with that.

OK. I now want to put the Motion that we include the words “in principle” into the original Motion.

All in favour of including the words “in principle”. Against. Carried.

I will now put the amendment which becomes the Motion including the words “in principle”

All in favour. Against.. Motion carried. Thank you.

SAA Graham: Thank you DG Jill. Some announcements regarding the MERL stand, the Convention to be held at Maryborough in 2010, a list of projector and any information regarding them can be obtained from Chairman Malcolm Qualtrough.

Righteous Pups video shown

LUNCH

S.A.A. Graham: District Returning Officer PDG Barry Davis asked to address Convention.

PDG Barry Davis: Good afternoon all members of our Lions family and friends all.

We have a little change in the programme because of some voting procedures.

I will give my Nomination Committee Report. It’s printed in the programme, that you have, I am not going to go through it word by word, nomination by nomination, only to say that all Nominations have been checked and are in order. As you can see that there are a couple of positions that we have received no nomination for, so we will need to call for these nominations from the floor. We also need to call for a Convention Host City that DG Jill will call for later on. We also have a resignation of a Board of Management position on the Board of Licola and this will be called for today also. Ballot papers have been prepared and we will vote accordingly. Due to the Motion that was passed this morning we now also have to vote for a Trustee on the VLR&AMRF and extra ballot papers have been prepared. Bear in mind that positions won’t take effect until, legally, July 2010, but because of the change in the Constitution that needs to happen at Maryborough. That decision will be voted on today, but the position will not be taken until close of the Convention at Maryborough next year.

We are going to do the voting in two blocks of votes. There will be seven ballot papers needed to be handed out. Firstly VLR&AMRF, VLF, and Lions Village Licola, done first. Candidates introduced for the year 2010-11 for District Governor, first and second Vice District Governor. I will call for the nomination that needs to come from the floor. Firstly, for second Vice District Governor for 2010-11. Debbie Hamilton, Lions Club of Castlemaine, nominated Fred Jacobs. Seconded by PDG David Ashmore, LC Sebastopol & District.

PDG Helen Campbell, Lions Club of Essendon, nominated Selva Selvendra. Seconded by Len Cassidy, Lions Club of Brunswick.

Any Further nominations? If not my Committee will have to vet those are in order and produce ballot papers for a vote on that.

Nominations for the newly created position on the VLR&AMRF that will take effect next year. PDG Pauline Harris, LC of Heidelberg-Warringal, nominated Marie Caven. Seconded by Wilfred Dyson, LC of Heidelberg- Warringal

Any further nominations? If not I will accept that nomination and will produce a ballot paper for that position.

The other nomination to fill is for Lions Village Licola. As this is a vacant position nominations can come from the floor, but DG Jill as DG has the power to take this nomination on a vote of hands from the floor because it’s a position being filled for part of a term, to 2010, short term.

No nomination for the Lions Village Licola Management. If not I will leave that in the capable hands of Jill, who has the power to appoint someone to that position.

For Convention Host City for 2011. Handed back to DG Jill.

DG Jill: Call for Convention Host City. Chair recognises PDG Phil Sheriff.

2nd. VDG Phil Sheriff: Phil Sheriff, L.C. of Broadmeadows, nominated the L.C. of St. Arnaud to be the Host City for the 2011 Convention. Because of the late notice there is no formal written application but President Lindsay Burke has authorised me to speak on their behalf. Nomination seconded by Gayle Marett, LC of Sebastopol & District. Nomination carried.

DG Jill: Recognises first District Conventioneers and presents First Convention ribbon.

S.A.A. Graham: Call on Chairman David Mark to introduce our Guest Speaker.

Chairman David Mark: DG Jill, Lions Family and guests.

It’s a great honour and pleasure for me to introduce to you our Guests Speaker, Leading Senior Constable Sandy Birch. Sandy has been specialising in child protection, counselling victims of sexual, physical and mental assaults over a long time.

She has served under five different Police Commissioners. She has seen the devil and met his children. She has been to where your worst nightmare would step in fear. The eyes of the young lady that looked into the camera to get a first photo of "Freddy" many years ago have got older and wiser and she looks at me with these wise eyes now and she is here to share some of her wisdom with all of us. So please Conventioneers, give Senior Constable Sandy a real Lions welcome.

Leading Senior Constable Sandy Birch: Thank you David, and thank you Jill for inviting me to come I can talk but I'm on a time limit and that's going to kill me. David just said that the young girl who gazed into the camera when she got her first "Freddy". When I joined, with him, we did not even have a camera to do things like that. Now "Freddy" is my identification because a few people have all said to me, we thought you would have been in uniform. This is my uniform that I wear to work everyday, because we work with very vulnerable victims and for their anonymity more than anything else, we don't wear a uniform. In the city it's because with all the ethnic mixes and backgrounds there are a lot of people scared of police, so they don't wear a uniform mainly for that reason. In the country it's so that women who have been the raped victim or the abused child in the car and we are driving from point a to b, all the locals aren't saying what's so and so doing in the car with the coppers. So we have unmarked cars and we don't wear a uniform. The reason that Jill and I first meet through Lions was in response to a query "What does happen with the Lion's bears". The first thing that happens with the Lion's bears with me is that it comes out of the bag. I am allergic to anything suffocating in a plastic bag. So I spoke to the local Club, something that I have experienced with using the Lions bears. Steering a little away from my field of sexual offences and child abuse, I make sure that any of the smaller stations out of Bendigo that wants a bear has a bear, which often gets strapped in the middle of the back seat. They use that bear when they go to a domestic where there is violence and children are frightened and they will hand that bear to the children for comfort. They use that bear when they go to car accidents which are pretty awful and there is a child there who is traumatised. We had a very serious accident on the outskirts of Bendigo a few years ago and even though I specialise in a particular field, when the need arises we all do whatever needs doing, no matter section you work in and I was asked to go out and spend the day with a father and his twelve year old child and his wife and two older children had just been killed in an accident that morning. In fact the twelve year old saw the accident on her way to school in the school bus. I knew that there was at least one surviving child; I did not know how many children were in the family at that stage, so I filled the boot with bears. As family and friends arrived during the day, and because of the type of the family it was there was a lot of media attention and that it was my main role to keep the media away, including all the helicopters, like getting all the people inside when I saw the helicopters coming again. Every child that arrived with their family members, to be with that family, I took them aside and gave them a bear and I think I took something like twenty bears in the boot of the car. I was so glad at the end of the day that I had given away the last bear and no more children arrived before I had to leave. But every one of those children gripped the bear and more or less all of them, from a little four year old who I spent a long-time sitting in the bottom of a ditch with her talking about the people who had died, all had the same thought. The little twelve year old who had not been in the car, she really needed her bear, didn't she? So that is one example where I was personally involved in handing bears to a number of children and they were so valued. Our work used to involve taking children to court if they needed care and protection and having them perhaps removed from families and in the old days the children had to go to court but it 's different now. I remember when we got some bears that pre-dated the Lions bears, and they were knitted bears from the Girl Guides. We had three boys, the oldest was thirteen, going over to the Court and they were all scared, they were scared because where they were coming from was really scary, their family, but they were scared because they did not know where they were going. I was just stirring the boys as they were old enough to stir up and try and break down some barriers and I asked "do you want a bear each to take to Court". Well, I never saw three boys grab on to and hang on to the bears as they did. And that really opened my eyes because, particularly the thirteen old, it would be beneath his dignity, but it was not. So that's a couple of examples of things that I have done with the bears. But getting into the field that I work in; child abuse. We see some pretty horrible things. One thing that has always stayed with me is the family where the children did not turn up for school and the van crew from the Sunday arvo spoke to us on the Monday and said, "look we went to do a job yesterday where little children were running in and out of the service station and the service station was sick of it" rang us and asked us to go around to these children, and to tell their parents to stop them from doing this. So we went around there and we have had a horrible feeling ever since that something awful has happened to those children. The children were not at school that day so we went around there and those children, mums new boyfriend of two weeks had belted them with the fabric that you make fan belts for your car out of.

He had a strap about seven cm wide, quite thick and doubled over and he thrashed those children from the back of their necks to the back of their knees. The little boy had a broken collar bone from the blow on his shoulder, it was pretty horrific and the worse bruising that I had ever seen. The children all said that their estranged uncle had done it and he had gone back to Melbourne, but we worked out very quickly that it was mums new boy friend but the kids were too scared to say. When we did a raid on that family at 4 o'clock in the morning to arrest him, he was all kitted up with masses of firearms and tomahawks, knives and machetes, ready to run a siege and in fact he had been involved in a siege in this area about four years earlier when he held up police for four days. Children like that when we see them, as they are leaving our office we give them a bear, not when they arrive. We do not want these children to hang on to a bear and get such comfort from it that they do not have to tell us because they are getting comfort. We do not want these children getting distracted and playing with the bear when they need to talk to us but we have other ways of breaking the ice and being friendly with them without giving them something. I mean the parents who come in and say "now you tell the nice police lady, remember I said you can have McDonalds on the way home" then the child is telling you things because they are getting something on the way home. But when they leave they get a bear and we say that this bear is very important, this bear is to look after you if something horrible happens, you tell the bear and you remind the bear that once you have told them the bear is to help you tell an adult. It's not just the children that we do this for; it's the young adults as well particularly those with an Intellectual Disability or just a little slow. The bears are very valuable here and some times its adults, who are particularly vulnerable, are comforted by the bears also.

I'm giving you a quick overview as I like to have a bit of time at the end for questions. But the other thing I have not spoken about yet is the main part of my work. Think about the last sexual experience you had, now turn to the person next to you and tell them about it. You would not and could not. To sit down and ask people to tell us about a just ghastly sexual experience, when they have never met us before, and they are frightened about what is going to happen to them and they are frightened of what has happened to them and they are frightened about what is going to happen to them as a consequence of talking to us. They are frightened of the person who did this to them, all sorts of things, and statistics, that I'm dead against but I like the way these ones were gathered. Back in the eighties there were statistics down in America, Canada, England and here in Adelaide and Melbourne. And it showed that by the time a child was aged eleven, one in three girls had been sexually assaulted. Now that could mean a very minor thing like brushing against their breasts or something "oh, I did not mean to touch you there" actually counts in some incidents as a sexual assault. So it could be a minor thing or a major thing. Lots of people have been sexually assaulted and a lot of people, when I first started this work, which was thirty one years ago, kept that information quite. Now days children are trained that they do not have to put up with things, they can say "no". Sometimes that is to their own detriment, when they are told to eat their greens and they so "no". But if somebody is doing something that they don't like they are trained to say "no" and they are also trained that they can tell somebody about it. It's usually fairly subtle training but it's working because today if I see a child who has been sexually assaulted it's only one or two times where as some time ago it was it would be up to a hundred times that they have been assaulted by the same person. Most people are assaulted by some one they know and the law of averages says that there are a number of people, in this room, who would know what I'm talking about. It's just a fact of life that sexual assault was not recognised world wide to 1983 and Victoria led the world recognising it as the big thing that it is. But today people grieve and say "but the laws are so bad and it still happens". I personally believe that it will continue to happen but to a lesser degree. And as for the law, theoretically, Governments have only recognised sexual assault for the last twenty-five to twenty-six years and laws have been around a lot longer than that, so the movement ahead that has happened in the laws around this sort of thing have been quite accelerated compared to the other types of laws. There is a whole raft of laws that have only come in during the last year that makes it easier for victims to go through the Court process. And again, the bears, when we finish talking to a person, that's when the bears come into play again and we say to that person, whether male, female, child or vulnerable adult here is some one who is to be your friend, your friend alone to look after you and to help you be safe and remind you of different ways to be safe. They are just invaluable, we get given a different number of toys to give away to children and these are the ones we reserve for very, very, very special people. So thank you very much Lions Clubs.

Questions:

Q. Do you have any incidents where the bears did not supply comfort?

A. There has been a couple, when the angry children have thrown the bear away. "I do not want it" we then talk and the child will take the bear

Q. Are we getting enough bears?

A. Every time I look in the cupboard I think I have just taken the last bear. Magically another box appears, we have had them from a few Lions Clubs around the Region and we have given a lot away.

Q. Do the sexual offence and child abuse units across the State know about the bears and their availability?

A. Yes they are. One of the most important messages I would like to give out is if a child speak to you and tells you something and you do not know what to do , do not keep it to yourself, network, talk to somebody else get advise, phone the police or child protection. We take statements from people who were sexually assaulted five, ten, twenty, thirty or forty years ago and the oldest was sixty years previously, by the person who was sexually assaulted and we had a successful prosecution. We say to them “did you tell someone” yes I told mum. And what did mum do? Mum did not do a thing.

Ok, how old were you when you told mum, ten years, mum was peeling potatoes, milk boiling over and a kitten under her feet and mum said “go away I’m busy”.

If a child wants to talk to you and you can say “I can not talk to you now but in five minutes we can talk about it then”. Kids are far more truthful than adults, the kids will also stretch the truth, listen to kids. Thank you.

C&BL Chairman PDG Arthur Uren: It is my extreme pleasure to move a vote of thanks to our Guest Speaker, Sandy today. As a Lion I’m an ex police officer of some twenty two years I have a very special interest in the SOCA Units throughout this State and certainly in the wonderful work that they do. I guess I, like you, can only but imagine the terrifying, frustrating, sad things that we come across every single day in the conduct of the rostered shift. When they go to work in the Am I guess they do not know what to expect first thing and it’s a twenty four / seven job that these people do. They are a remarkable people with remarkable resilience and I think they need to be congratulated in every possible way. Finally, I can assure you that the bears are very in depth trained and they know exactly what to do when they are circulated into the community at the appropriate time. We have distributed over the past twenty years over forty thousand bears across the State and all the bears from all the services come from the Crime Watch and Speak-up Teddy Bear programme. I am absolutely delighted to present to you with a stuffed or “suffocating” bear, but let me assure you there are twenty three others in the box to go with him.

Presentation of twenty four bears to Leading Senior Constable Sandy Birch.

S.A.A. Graham: I would like Phil Sheriff to come to the stage to speak about his portfolio.

2nd. VDG Phil Sheriff: Conventioneers, in your bag today you would have received this sheet.

I’m a Non Cabinet Member of the used pre-licked postage stamps, pre-popped wine bottle corks; pre-fingered aluminium cans ring pull, pre-viewed spectacles, pre-called mobile phones, and pre-listened hearing aids. I urge you all to go back to your Clubs, collect these items if you are not already doing so, please do and to get them to me or if that’s a difficult, then through your Zone Chairman. The Zone Chairman will get them to me at a cabinet meeting or another function. It’s most important that we save these things as they are all in the Lions programmes. I am particularly fond of the pre-licked postage stamps, being a stamp collector and a member of the Lions International Stamp Club. The funds that we raise go to the Australian Children’s Mobility fund and as you heard this morning of the valuable work that they do. In the last seven years we have raised over \$9,000 and that all came from pre-licked postage stamps. So the more you get into us the more we can sell the more money we make. As with the other items on the sheet do not throw them away—recycle them. Thank you.

SAA Graham: Like to introduce Chairman PDG Helen Campbell.

Chairman PDG Helen Campbell: Thank you Graham.

DG Jill and Conventioneers. One of the things that I’m passionate about in Lions is Licola.

And what policewoman Sandy spoke about, ironically, is what we have to deal with the children who go to these camps. Licola is our Village for under privileged, disadvantaged children. We have three camps in the year two in January, one in April and one in September. The September one has just been completed and that was a great success and I have now dispatched all the Club information for the camps for 2010. All the Clubs would have received a Club application form which we would like you to fill out and send with a cheque to the mentioned address requesting so many children to attend that camp, from your Club and then we will send you back the required number of Children application forms and a Lions sponsored camp brochure for each child. Licola is just a marvellous place, we have had a lot of ups and downs in Licola and we are at a stage now where it is really looking good. Those who have been up for a working bee, we had one in August, and there were fifty five people up their, working very hard for a week and we have also been very lucky as the Council has now graded the McAllister River, so it may flood again but never as badly as it did before. The roads are all bituminised now which cuts down the dust into the cabins.

We have two wonderful caretakers, a Programme Manager and a Manager, two great people who do so much for Licola. PDG Peter McShane is now the CEO and he is great in that position as well. What we would like from the Clubs though, apart from you to sponsor the children to, is to volunteer. People like yourselves. There was a time when the volunteers were all made up of Lions members, but now we are desperate to get Lions members to go up there but without the volunteers we can not have the camps. I now work on a ratio of one volunteer to six children and if I do not get the volunteers I have to say "no" to the children. Because legalities have to be followed to protect these children and I don't want to do that. It was really interesting in September, we had no children and we had all these volunteers from the College, So I said "sorry we can not take you this year", suddenly the children turned up but now no volunteers.

But we worked out a good safe ratio in the end so everyone had a good time. So instead of taking a lot of older volunteers who go every year, not necessarily Lions, we gave it to the students from the Colleges. So please consider it, it's only five days but those children are the sort of children that policewoman Sandy Birch was saying they need somebody to take to and you are those people, and they will open up to you where they want open up to anybody else. And it's one, five days when they will get fed, assured of a clean bed, assured of somebody to talk to the next day, assured of having some sort of structure into their life, that's what children need. So Licola does so much for these children, please support it. Thank you.

S.A.A. Graham: Thank you Helen. Call PDG Eric Gittens to inform us of the VLR&AMRF.

Z.C. PDG Eric Gittens: The RAF as we most of us know it which is currently the now VLR&AMRF has been going over twenty years and as I mentioned earlier in part of the spiel about the Notice of Motion we changed. We have a quarter of a million dollars invested and that money has come from the Clubs, at the time was VI and what has happened, the interest from that goes to the Monash Research for rheumatism and arthritis. If you have a look at the Convention book you will see a Report by Professor Littlejohn where the money is actually spent. It also has a profit and loss sheet and there and compares it to previous years. The actual account that's in the bank does not really hold that much, probably \$500 plus, but don't quote me on the exact figure as I don't have that in front of me. We do have some very dedicated Lions working with and have been working with it for a long time. What we would like to be able to do, and I was thinking about this a little bit earlier, and if I did get the chance I am going to ask you all to take it back to your Clubs and ask your Clubs if they can help support this. What I would really like to do with it is to get those funds up to one million dollars as that one million dollars would enable a reasonable "Fellow" to be able to be sponsored by Lions, courtesy through the Victorian Lions Foundation. It's a big ask but at this stage I believe it's possible, it might take us a few years but we would be able to do it. It's a programme that belongs to us and us as Lions and those who suffer from arthritis are well aware that there is not too much around that will actually cure it. Myself, I suffer from it and a few years ago I went in to have a hip replacement and that was all caused by arthritis. A few of you here probably got it; you may or not know about it, you may be taking medication to ease it. Let's see if we can help find a cure for it. And let's see if we can eradicate it. Lions have eradicated lots of things in the past; let's see if we can go one more stage and thank you for your time.

SAA Graham: Thank you Eric and if PDG Barry Davis could come forward please.

Nomination Chairman PDG Barry Davis: Governor Jill and friends. We are now going to move into the first part of the voting. We are going to do the voting for the Foundation positions, which I will ask the nominated people if they want to come up and speak to the Convention, and they have that opportunity to do so. We will be voting on the new position for the VLR&AMRF, the two positions for the VLR&AMRF, two positions were called for and were nominated for, Lions Village Licola and the Victorian Lions Foundation position.

First position will be for the position on the VLF. We have a nomination from PDG Helen Campbell and this will be for 2010-13 and I ask if Helen if she want to speak to thew Convention

Invitation to speak to the Convention deemed unnecessary by PDG Helen Campbell.

The next positions are for two positions on the VLR&AMRF. Nomination received from PDG Eric Gittens and Winston van Haltren.

Invitation to speak to the Convention deemed unnecessary by PDG Eric Gittens and Winston van Haltren.

The most recent one, to the position on the VLR&AMRF for the new term and I ask if Marie Caven if she wants to address the Convention.

Invitation to speak to the Convention deemed unnecessary by Marie Caven.

Cabinet Secretary Ron and Assistant Cabinet Secretary John are waiting at the table and to receive your voting papers you will need to produce your Delegates card and it will be marked off.

You will be given a purple ballot paper with two names on it, you will need to put a simple “yes” or “no” for those two positions, so you need to nominate if wish both those people on the Foundation. The second ballot paper, blue, which is the VLF nomination for PDG Helen Campbell, again we want a simple “yes” or “no”. The last paper, white, will be for the new position on the VLR&AMRF and Marie Caven is the nominated person and a “yes” or “no” vote is required..

My apologies I did miss one. We also have another position for the Lions Village Licola Board of Management. Helen Campbell’s term is finished and we need to re-elect a person for that. I have a pink ballot paper, with Helen’s name on it and again we need a simple “yes” or “no” on it.

You will get four ballot papers, purple, blue, white and pink and you need to vote on each ballot paper.

Voting:

Chairman PDG Barry Davis: DG Jill and members. Thank you for voting so promptly and we will move into the second phase of the voting where the people nominating for positions can speak. The position for 2010-11 are for District Governor, first Vice District Governor and second Vice District Governor, we have nominations for these positions. The introducer has four minutes, with a warning bell at three and a half minutes and the nominee has five minutes with a warning bell at four and a half minutes. We have conducted a secret ballot where we have two nominations for one position on the ballot paper for second VDG and for the order of speaking. N. Selvendra will be first on the ballot paper and Fred Jacobs will be second, and the speaking order will be firstly Fred Jacobs and N. Selvendra second.

I would now like to call PDG John Thorpe who is introducing our candidate for District Governor for 2010-11, Lion Graeme Lukey.

Chairman PDG John Thorpe: Thank you Barry. DG Jill members of the Lions family.

It’s with a great deal of pleasure and an honour that on behalf of the President and members of the Lions Club of Buninyong-Mt. Helen and although we are not here in numbers today, he has the full support of his Club, as you would well imagine. Graeme is a long serving member of our Club and has been a member of the organisation for thirty seven years and most of that time and talents has been spent at Buninyong and we are very proud of him there. He really needs no introduction to the Convention as he is very well known candidate. He has been our C&BL Chairman for five or six years and like I have said he is a lot more than a wise head, that we see sitting on stage and nodding very solemnly. He is a very outgoing person, he is a great leader in both his business life and his work with Lion and I think we can all look forward to a wonderful year next year. He will make an excellent District Governor, he is blossoming in my opinion, and he has changed since he has taken a step back in his business life. He is almost human. When you fully concentrate on what you are doing at work, I suppose you do become solemn and serious, but I have noticed in the past twelve months a great change in Graeme, a change for the better I think. For the benefit of the Lions Organisation, Lions I give you, I hope very shortly your District Governor Elect, Graeme Lukey.

First Vice District Governor Graeme Lukey: DG Jill, Distinguished Lions, Lions, Lionesses, partners of Lions and other guests.

I thank John very much for those words. John has not only had to introduce me but John is a great support and has already been a great support and will be a great support in time. Obviously I am very thankful to my Club and the support they demonstrate and already there has been a lot of support from that quarter and that’s very welcoming. I could not have given the time I give to Lions, over a long period of time without the distinct support of my wife Ting and daughter, Melinda, and I’m very grateful for that. Twelve months ago, at the Maryborough Convention, I indicated my ability to stand for the office was really dependant on winding back my business involvement. It’s taken a lot longer than I thought to do but by the end of this year I will have been able to do to leave a lot of that behind and certainly have the time that is necessary to devote to this position and to prepare and then to serve as the best of my ability as your District Governor in 2010-11. My pledge to you as Lions of 201V1-4 is to actively assist and encourage Club members as you continue to serve in your local communities and more broadly and so in doing that your service as Lions will be even more rewarding. Individually of course we are very limited in what we can do as Lions but as a collective and coming together that we are able to really have a combined strength that provides unlimited possibilities. My contribution I hope will be based on experienced gained over many years in business, in Lions and other community involvements. Having said that, my solid belief is that it’s not words that count but actions performed and that’s something that’s very visible and I hope it’s something that you will recognise and be able to take a lead in that respect from my in put. It’s my firm conviction that the Lions organisation is all about Lion volunteers who work with their Clubs to achieve better outcomes for our respective communities. The District and Lions Club International has a role and that role really is to serve Lions Clubs so that their efforts will continue too be multiplied many times over. That’s the philosophy I have in terms of District involvement.

If Lions Clubs are to maintain their excellent record of service to the community their membership must be continuously replenished and grow and as a goal in that sense I think really that the growth rate must be at least with the rate of population, if not more. Because, otherwise we are falling behind and the expectation is for a greater effort from those who remain. So growth and development of membership must continue to be a high priority. I think, and I did mention it at Maryborough also that somehow we need to reinstall an enthusiasm for Lions to participate at Conventions. Those who come and those who are involved understand what we get from Conventions and the importance of coming together and sharing and we need to spread that message more widely. So again my personal philosophy is a long held one that it's incumbent on all of us to, in fact put back some of which we have gained through opportunity, experience and personally having been in Lions for a long time, and pretty clearly having started in Lions at a relative young age I have learnt so much and have had the opportunity to work others over a long period of time and hopefully gain a lot so therefore there is a lot to put back. So it's for that reason amongst others that I have nominated for the position of District Governor and to be able to do that I obviously need support so my purpose in standing at this time is to ask for your support in the election that is about to be held. So, having said all that thank you very much for your attention.

Chairman PDG Barry Davis: The second position we will be voting on will be the position of first Vice District Governor for 2010-11 and the nominee for that position is Phil Sheriff and to introduce Lion Phil to us is PDG David Ashmore.

PDG David Ashmore: DG Jill. Earlier in the week Phil gave me a great sheet of paper. I thought he is not confident in what I'm going to say, so Phil, I threw that piece of paper out because everybody here has got that information in your flyer. I thought the best way to introduce Phil is showing what sort of man Phil is. Phil is a committed family man, he is not only committed to his wife Margaret but to his children and his grandchildren. He shows the same commitment to his family as he shows to Lions. He is a committed, dedicated and honest person and Phil would not stand for the position if he did not think he could fulfil the role and goals that he has. It is my privilege and honour to introduce my friend Phil Sheriff.

Second Vice District Governor Phil Sheriff: Thank you David for those words. DG Jill members of the Lions family and guests. I'm standing as the candidate for this position of first Vice District Governor and I would like to thank the Lions Club of Broadmeadows for their nomination, encouragement and support that they gave me; I know I will fulfil their wishes. I see the role as first VDG as a position that gives support to the District Governor and I can assure Graeme that he has my full support. Graeme and I, with the support of the whole Executive will work as a team as we are currently doing and I know that by doing this Graeme will achieve his goals in his forthcoming year as District Governor. What encourages me to stand for leadership roles in our District? Firstly, I have the full support of my wife Margaret, my children and my grandchildren. Secondly, is the Lions Code of Ethics, the first "to show my faith by industrious application for quality of service". I believe in the Lions Code of Ethics and I try to adhere to them, to the principles laid out in them, the success of the Lions organisation, our organisation is hinged on them and in them. My commitment to the remaining Ethics is unquestionable; I make my unreserved commitment to them. To seek success but to accept no success if self respect is lost or an unfair advantage taken of, on my behalf. To remember that I will be loyal to my members, Clubs and true to the District and therefore myself. Resolve doubt against myself, hold friendship as an end and not a means, bare in mind my obligations as a citizen, to aid and offer sympathy to others and probably the most important, to be careful with my criticism and liberal with my praise, to build up and not destroy. As you can see in the hand out I have been extensively and actively involved in the wider community through sports and charities over several years. I'm not one to sit back and let the others do the work, I like to get involved, roll up the sleeves and in the case of Lions to grab the tongs and turn the snags on the barbie. These are the principles I'm offering you as members of our District. Delegates, as with my business career, with two main employees, that expanded over thirty eight years I strive to do the best I could and achieve goals that were satisfactory for their success. So, I'm offering the same quality of leadership decision making and foresight that you, the members of the Lions and the Lions Code of Ethics expect. I will endeavour to uphold these principles and successful outcomes and dreams that will benefit the growth of our wonderful and diverse organisation. Delegates give me your endorsement today and allow me to progress to the role of first VDG and as most of you know, that with me, you see what you get, a dedicated family man a passionate Lion and a payed up Sydney Swan supporter. Thank you.

Chairman PDG Barry Davis: We have two nominations for the position of second Vice District Governor and the first to be introduced to speak to us is candidate Fred Jacobs and I would ask the President of the Castlemaine Club, Debbie Hamilton, to come forward and introduce the candidate please.

LC of Castlemaine President Debbie Hamilton: Hello DG Jill, Cabinet members, Lions family.

My name is Debbie Hamilton and I'm the President of Castlemaine and a relatively new member of three years. I would like to introduce Fred and Castlemaine has unanimously nominated him as the second VDG. Fred has given enormous support to me, especially in this term of my Presidency. But a few details about Fred. Fred was born in Cootamundra NSW and completed HSC at Williamstown High School. His family background consisted of pioneers who settled in Australia in 1808. Fred and his wife, Helen, have been only been married a few years and he is dedicated to his family which consist of eight children and eleven grandchildren. Also, Lions involvement with Fred; in 1987 Fred joined the Southern Peninsula Lions and held all Club positions, except for Treasurer, and in 1998 became President and in 1999 Fred moved to Castlemaine with his family and joined the Castlemaine Club in 2002. Fred served on the Board for the next five years and was the President of Castlemaine in 2007-08. In the same year Fred became Zone Chairman and still holds that portfolio. He has community involvement which is being Treasurer of Rosebud and Rye Primary School, volunteer with Dromana Special School, volunteer with Mornington Peninsula Crisis Centre, member of the Board of Management of a Special School, Land Care volunteer, State and Federal Electoral Officer, and Government Censors Division Supervisor. With Lions involvement he has been a Zone Chairman, involved with Campaign Sight first, Club President two years, Club Secretary one year, and Club Board for fourteen years. He has attended one International and seventeen V District Conventions and attended Lions Senior Leadership Institute in Perth in October of this year. He also supports the Youth of the Year, Children of Courage, Lions Health programmes and combining the Clubs of V1-4 in the bonds of friendship and mutual understanding. He is very approachable, he is friendly, he is kind, he is generous and has a big heart and he can sort out problems for you. So I would just like to put our nomination forward and that you accept Fred for this position. Thank you.

ZC Fred Jacobs: Good afternoon. I'm a member of the Castlemaine LC. I first joined Lions back in the "80's" and I joined the Southern Peninsula LC. When I was first ask to consider accepting this nomination I was a little surprised as I had considered a future nomination, next year or the year after, maybe, because I had assumed that Nominations had been received and that the normal process was underway. I was unaware that no nominations had been received by the due date and this saddened me. But at the same time it then stirred the passion of Lionism in me which has always been there but kept relatively under control. The next step was the anxiety and the adrenalin. They took hold and it took me some time to make the decision to be here right now. I wanted to be sure I could do this job and I had the strength of character to do the very best I could and be prepared to accept the challenge. This forum today is loaded with successful candidates for District Governors, with possibly a few unsuccessful candidates and I know we all have the commitment, dedication and passion for this exceptional Organisation. I know I have the commitment, dedication and passion to do my very best. I'm no extraordinary person but I do belong to this extraordinary Organisation. I'm no miracle worker but I belong to an Organisation that performs miracles, and if they are not miracles they are so close to it that you can not tell the difference. I have no grand plan or small scale projects that jump out of me at this stage, but I will continue to assist in every way possible to ensure that the programmes and projects that are currently running achieve their maximum goal. What I do have is the courage to accept this nomination and am prepared to represent this great Organisation to the best of my ability. I have been to and participated in election processes at Conventions in the past and whether my vote or my candidate was successful or no, the person chosen has had my loyalty, support and commitment, without question. Your choice today is not an easy one, although I would like it to be me. It must be seriously considered, you must choose somebody who you believe will do their best, will be a credit to the Lions and someone you are prepared to have to represent you in the public forum. And that someone is also prepared to accept the responsibility that goes with the position. I believe I meet all the key selection criteria, I am the best man for the job and I have nothing further to add.

Chairman PDG Barry Davis: Your second candidate for the position of second Vice District Governor for 2010-11 we have the nomination of Selvendra and I would ask PDG Helen Campbell to come forward and introduce the candidate.

Chairman PDG Helen Campbell: DG Jill, Conventioneers one and all. I stand here today with the full support of the LC of Essendon as I nominate and introduce to you Lion Selvendra for the position of second VDG. I along with the members from the LC of Essendon consider Selva to be an excellent candidate for this position. I will now tell you about the back ground of Selva, as a lot of you don't actually know Selva. Selva has been a member for twenty eight years and he joined Lions in Brunei were he held the following positions at Club level.

Lion Tamer, Tail twister, Treasurer, Secretary (TwoYears) and first Vice President. Then in 1991 he joined the LC of Essendon and has served on the Board of Directors since. He has been; assistant Secretary (Five years), membership Chairman, Greeter, first and second Vice President and President in 2003-04 and 2009-10. At District level Selva was the ZC in 2005-06 (V1) District representative of the VLR&AMRF for the current two years. He has a 100% Secretary's Award, the Knight of Strength and the Knight of the Blind recognition, a James D. Richardson Award, a Melvin Jones Award and he has completed the Guiding Lion course in September this year. Selva has attended two International Conventions and many District Conventions. Selva's personal history: Selva was born in Malaysia and he completed a three year course in pharmaceuticals and then worked in a number of hospital pharmacies in Malaysia. In 1971 he moved to Brunei and worked for the Brunei Shell Petroleum Co. in their hospital. Selva is married to Lila and they have two adult children and one grandchild. When Selva migrated to Australia, he had to change his profession due to registration difficulties in those days. He joined the Public Service and the transport industry, he worked his way up to obtain the position of Senior Station Master and this position he has held for the past eighteen years. He is very involved in the community and he loves gardening. If elected to the position of second VDG Selva will continue the goals of our first VDG, Phil, he will also support and encourage membership growth, retention and family membership. Selva also hopes to be selected to attend the Senior Lions Institute, Selva has the full support of his wife, Lila, and family and of course his home Club of Essendon. Selva has proved that he is passionate about Lions, in particular the Lions eye health programme. I and the members of the Lions Club of Essendon strongly recommend Selva as a suitable candidate for second VDG and I ask all delegates to support his nomination and I present to Lions Selva. Thank you.

N. Selvendra: DG Jill, fellow Conventioneers. Good afternoon. I'm a third generation Sri Lankan born and bred in Malaysia, worked in Brunei, settled as a new Australian, in Australia. I'm presenting myself to be elected second VDG for 2010-11. I joined Lions Club of Brunei in District 308 which is part of the MD of Singapore, Brunei and Malaysia. I have held various positions at that Club as Helen has mentioned. I have held the positions of Secretary, Treasurer, Vice President and other offices. I joined the Lions Club of Essendon in 1991 and have been on the Board ever since. I also served as President for two years, 2003-04 and the current year, I have held the position of Zone Chairman 2005-06 (V1) and I have attended two International and two MD Conventions and I have attended numerous District Conventions. During my involvement with Lions I have attended leadership seminars and work shops, this has helped me in my current position as Senior Station Master. I also have extra extensive customer service skills and people skills. I'm prepared to attend the Senior Lions Leadership programme in the near future as PDG Helen has said. My passion in the Lions eye health programme originated when I first attended the conservation of eye sight where we originally started the eye bank in East Malaysia. Ever since I have been involved in recycle for sight, plus other projects. I'm proud to say I have been recognised as a Knight of Strength and a Knight of the Blind by PID Dr. Tay Sun Lee. As second VDG I will continue with the missions and visions of VDG Phil Sheriff and also enter direct membership group retention and family membership, to build better fellowship with members of other Clubs and continue with visitations, identify leadership qualities among members and encourage participation at District levels. My wife, my family and my own Club support me on this undertaking. If you will give me this privilege to serve you and I think I am the most suitable candidate with the most experience and I hope you will support me on this project. Thank you.

Barry Davis: Thank you to those candidates and good luck.

Delegates, you will get three ballot papers. You will get a red ballot paper which needs a simple "yes" or "no" for Graeme Lukey's nomination. You will get a green ballot paper for Phil Sheriff's nomination and you will get an orange ballot paper. There are two candidates; you need to mark the ballot paper with one choice, a simple "one" of your choice in the box.

S.A.A. Graham: Thank you Barry. Recommence at 3-30pm.

Voting:

SAA Graham; If I could ask Malcolm Qualtrough to the podium to introduce our Guest Speaker

Chairman Malcolm Qualtrough: District Governor Jill, members of the Lions Family and guests.

This year the District Governor re-introduced the portfolio of the environment Chairman back into the District. It's fitting that I introduce our next Guest Speaker, Jason Watson. I first met Jason in 1999. Jason is an electrical engineer and I followed Jason through three International Company's that manage the Victorian electricity grid over a seven year period, this is the break-up of the SEC. Jason is currently the Operations Manager for Acciona Energy, that's a Spanish Company that has just completed the largest wind farm in the Southern Hemisphere at Waubra.

Being a new Company in Victoria Jason has managed the formation of a large stable work force for the Ballarat area and built that up from scratch. But Jason has not come to us today to speak wind power but more about ice power and his experiences in Antarctica. Please welcome Jason and his wife Janine who have travelled up from Belgrave to be with us today.

Jason Watson: Thank you Malcolm, thank you District Governor for inviting me and thank you everyone for having me at your Convention. I am going to talk to you about my experiences in Antarctica. I spent what they call the short winter there in 2004 when I had the privilege of spending a winter in Casey, one of Australia's three Antarctica bases. The Australian Government has claim to forty percent of the Antarctica continent, and it runs three permanent bases there for the purpose of scientific investigations and I was involved in the operations and maintenance. We had to keep these bases available and running all year round for the purpose of the scientists working there. This is an overview of the Casey station. It's built near the Windmill Islands on the Antarctica Continent and its location has been selected because it's one of the closest points to the magnetic South Pole. A lot of scientific work there is on the physics and geology in the area and also on the flower fauna. There is a large penguin rookery and a lot of seal breeding colonies around this area as well. So Casey is almost due south of Perth on the Antarctica Continent and I think we worked it out that we were the only people within one and half million square kilometres. Our closest neighbours were the French base, South of New Zealand. Getting there, we headed down on the Aurora Australis ship which is used for Antarctica research. If you are not sure if you get sea sick a trip in the Southern Ocean will defiantly confirm this, but after a short eight day trip you start to see the ice and the sea starts to calm down. One of the amazing things you see, and you can always pick the people heading down for the first time because as soon as the first ice berg appears on the horizon they are all out photographing these little things in the distance and very quickly the ice bergs get bigger and bigger. And very soon you are travelling through the ice proper and one of the amazing things that strike you straight away is the amount of life just in the ice. It's hard to get a good shot, but every one hundred metres there is a seal, penguin or whale. The amount of life is phenomenal and very quickly we get through that and we are at the base.

Arriving there a lot of peoples expectations of life in Antarctica is that it's very rough very rudimentary and you are going to be roughing it for an awful long period of time but as soon as you arrive there though you realise what a well established and professional operation that is there. The amount of building and infrastructure which is established there was such that people could live all year round in this environment. And this became home for a long period of time, this is the living quarters at Casey base. It's built as you would think, to be very well insulated, the windows are all triple glazed, the buildings are made out of polystyrene sandwiched between colour bond sheeting and it maintains it at eighteen to twenty degrees inside. Its rock underneath the building so it just rock pylons placed into the rock and a steel framed building placed on top. The amount of activity when a ship comes in, on the station is frantic, the ships normally arrive and are there for two or three days and it's a very quick process to get the people going in off, and the people back on board and all the cargo off the ship so the base can carry on functioning. Each base stocks up with enough stock to last two years just in case a ship never gets in. Coming through the front door into the living quarters when your first arrive you are struck by how palatial the building can become, very much like a five star ski lodge and this is what we refer to as a "Wallo" where we would sit and have a cup of tea or coffee in the morning, read magazines, normally several years old and look out at the view of the icebergs shuffling across the Bay. The accommodation themselves are fairly basic but it was my room for nine months and the team I spent the winter with was a relatively large winter crew with twenty four of us and winter crews can be as low as six. So you get to know everybody for that time, pretty well. It struck me before listening to the speeches earlier, you have a lot of normal people thrown into exceptional circumstances and it's a matter of getting on building a community and getting things done together, very similar what you stand for, and the crew we had here was pretty much to keep the base going over the winter. Over the summer it swells to about sixty or eighty people as the scientists come in and all the science programmes kick off again. But over the winter we are just there to do the maintenance and keep everything going and to make sure the Base is still there for the following summer. The sort of things that we do down there: there is a store where we keep our supplies to keep the place running. I notice that coming here today it's about twenty seven degrees our winters down there were minus twenty seven degrees. We had a few tricks for actually telling the temperature as well. Gentlemen with moustaches at about minus eight minus ten used to get icicles forming on their moustaches as they breathed out, at minus twenty four degrees, exactly, the nostril hairs froze and as soon as you stepped out side you knew it was minus twenty degrees at that point.

And then at minus twenty eight degrees you could take a cup of boiling water, throw it in the air and it would never come down.

Getting around in Antarctica is a little bit different than driving down the normal streets. We had snow mobiles and part of our training is to drive this with out being able to see, to drive by GPS and radar so if you are caught in a blizzard it is literally a white-out, you can not see your hand in front of your face, so you need to be able to move around and survive in those conditions.

We have carpenters who are actually extending part of the base. While the concrete slab was laid we had to have heaters on it for three days, permanently, to keep it above freezing so the concrete had a chance to cure and harden. We have plumbers who do what plumbers do. We had a sewerage system down there were all the waste had to be treated and they also had to look after all the fresh water supplies as well. And this is one of the most energy intensive part of living in the Antarctica that you maintain liquid water. There were pipes that transported both fresh water and heated water so all the buildings kept at about eighteen to twenty degrees and a large amount of plumbers time was spent making sure this system never broke down. Where did all our energy come from? We have two generator houses, one with four diesel generators and another one with two backup diesel generators and these ran twenty four hours per day, supplying both the electricity and the heat for the station as well. So all of the waste heat off the generators was supplied to heat the buildings and the electricity was used to supply everything else. We had three diesel mechanics and two electricians who used to look after this all winter. Some of our tasks down there, we had mechanics as well as looking after the diesels they look after all of the vehicles and all the equipment. Part of our duties was actually keeping ourselves feed and entertained and there was a hydroponic building on the base where we could grow a few fresh vegies to supplement all of the brought canned stuff. It was a large boost to morale a well, particularly during the winter months, it was where would be exposed to sunlight working in the hydroponics underneath the lamps and the smell of the plants is some thing you don't realise you miss until you can not smell them. Of the twenty one people there we had a full time doctor and a full time chef and you would argue who was more important. The days seemed to revolve around meals. At 10-00am you stopped for a cooked breakfast and smoko, 12 o'clock for lunch and 6-00pm was dinner time and with twenty one people working across the base you did not see people much of the time except at dinner time. This was the time that you came together and you talked and you found out what was going on and you got a bit of sanity. One of the major things in Antarctica is keeping yourself entertained for that period of time. You are in an isolated and remote environment, you are away from your friends and loved ones, during winter there is no way you can get back to Australia. The ships can not get in because the sea ice is too thick, the planes cannot come in because the weather is too bad so as soon as the last ship leaves for the season, that's it till the next summer arrives.

One of the highlights of a winter in Antarctica is the mid winter swim. We drilled a hole through one metre thick ice, the sea temperature stays at minus four degrees and a quick dip is very invigorating.

With mid winters, as well there is a tradition, started by Shackleton, is putting on a mid winter play.

Traditionally it's nearly all blokes and on stations that are changing for the better, but it's a large amount of preparation that goes into every bad play to a very small audience, everybody's in it.

Contact with the other station is something that is treasured there. We played darts with another base, Davis, where we would throw the darts and over the radio would tell them what we got and they would throw their darts and tell us what their score is. One of my projects while I was there was building an igloo. We ended up having an igloo warming party and it was very successful. The social aspects became very important, again with a small group of people and maintaining and developing a social bond is critical. And life there does get monotonous, so having something to look forward to every couple of weeks was important. So every birthday or something to celebrate a lot of effort went into doing something together as a group. One of the unique opportunities there is getting about and exploring the environment there. We took up walking across the sea ice, riding motor bikes which are excellent for getting around on the ice and snow and getting out to some of the unique landscapes. The field huts dotted around the base, and they are there for recreation and scientific purposes and most of them are converted freezer shipping containers and are self contained. So taking a nice bottle of red and some food a group of three or four of you would head out, spend the evening there and then head back to the station and work the next day. The hot spa is thirty five degrees and above the spa is minus twenty five degrees and the steam freezes in your hair as it rises so you are nice and warm from the neck down and from the neck up it's freezing. You start to count the days to coming home as you are in a bizarre type of environment there, you are connected to the world by internet and by the phone. You are in this surreal experience and you had to pinch yourself every now and again and not to take where you are for granted.

You would walk down the street between the buildings to do a job and you had to remember to look around and actually realise that out on the Bay there was an iceberg floating past or the wild life was coming into breed about this time. Over the winter the wild life follows the edge of the ice and as the ice expands all the wild life disappears. It's quite a sad point when you actually realise that none of the birds or penguins are about. Then about September you get the first odd penguin or odd seal arriving and within a short space of time there is a huge amount of wildlife activity happening around the base. Australia and all the Countries that are working in Antarctica are all signatories to the Antarctica Treaty which governs what activities can be performed in Antarctica, what you can build down there, what you can do down there, there is no exploration for mining, part of the Treaty bans those types of activities, bans any military activity. The Antarctica Treaty sets the Antarctica aside for scientific research and conservation and with that you are restricted to what type of building you build and they have to be consistent with the activities that you are doing down there. The Australian base is still subject to Australian laws, so the building standards have to be applied to everything on the Australian bases. Part of the Antarctica Treaty says that everything that is taken into Antarctica is removed so we had to recycle into every single category. We used to cut off both ends off the cans and squash them flat so that we would get the most amount of cans into packages, but what the collection agencies wanted to crush them again and this did not work so I had to cut off one end and squash it a little flat so it could be squashed again in Australia.

We would work five and a half days on our normal jobs and then spend half of Saturday doing all the communal jobs and one of the main activities was the waste collection, bundling everything up and getting it ready for when the ship arrives, we would send everything back. We got Sunday off for our selves to explore and to do different bits and pieces.

There is a long and arduous selection process with the Antarctica Division that runs the Antarctica bases, it turns over its Base people every year, and it selects people for up to a twelve months period. They either do a summer of between three and four months or they will do a winter where they do twelve to fourteen months. Selecting those people who submit their application and they were ten or twelve pages and through a short listing of those people would come into a selection centre where we would get twenty or thirty people together and people from the division and people who had been South before would come in and run them through a huge range of activities. And the main thing we are looking for, is would these people survive living in a close community for a long period of time. It's alright being in a small group for a day or a week or a month but if you are going to be in a small community for a year we wanted to make sure that the people coming in would all get along. We went through the details of trade examinations and the main thing there is that the equipment and the work in Antarctica is not particularly difficult but you have you know a bit of everything. There is no specialist, if the plumbers do not know how to fix it, it's not going to get fixed, so you need people coming in that had a good broad range of experiences and where fairly adaptable to pick up and learn things they did not know. And from there we went onto a detailed medical and psychological examination as well. We used the Australian Defence Force Psychologist to do a psychological examination of everyone and then do through a medical as well. It used to be that, a long time ago you had to have your appendix out before you went to Antarctica, now it's only the doctors as they can not operate on themselves. With the medical side of things we had one trained Doctor and we had to train up theatre nurses and anaesthetists because if the worse comes then we had to be able to do something. Our anaesthetists were a carpenter and a chef and our theatre nurses were a plumber and an electrician, so you made sure you did not get sick or hurt yourself. If you left the base you lived in an outdoor pyramid type tent and we spent a week off base just outside Casey and it got down to minus forty degrees. While we were out on this trip getting out of your sleeping bag there was a ring of ice from where your breath was frozen overnight and the top of the tent was covered in small icicles. We headed into one of the old research stations that was built on top of the snow but after the last twenty years it's now thirty metres underground and there is a tunnel hatch way that is built on top of it and every couple of years a group will go out and extend the hatch a couple of metres so that in a couple of years time it will still be above the snow, so that we can go down and have a look.

Some slides showing spectacular scenery, sunsets, ice bergs, penguins, seals, elephant seals etc.

Two metrologists are looking at the weather all the time and they knew a couple of days in advance when a blizzard was coming and as the wind would pick up to one hundred kilometres per hour and the temperature would rise when a blizzard came in and the temperature would rise only minus four and the winds would howl for days.

I will be around so if you have any questions you want to ask, please come and see me. Thank you.

SAA Graham: Calls Environmental Chairman Sam Tung to move a vote of thanks.

Chairman Sam Tung: Thank for that Graham. Besides been the Environmental Chairperson by profession I am also an Architect, so I found that presentation extremely informative and to tell you the truth I have problems designing buildings in Australia let alone doing something in Antarctica so I can imagine all the problems and difficulties that Jason had to go through and amazingly enough, for the past five or six years the work that I have been involved in, mostly pharmaceutical clean room type buildings. So looking at that I am quite looking forward to maybe taking on this challenge as well. Obviously the project that we do is based around research so I can tell you that I would also like to thank Jason for doing that for us and I can understand that being in Antarctica looks like fun from the photos that you have shown but obviously there are still difficulties there, like being away from your family and like Jason said that is always hard to find things to do but that mid winter sun and the spa sounds good. So thank you very much Jason and on behalf of Jill I would like to present you with something. Thank you.

S.A.A. Graham: Details venues for the four forums.

Convention Chairman Graham Gaylard: Detailing dinner dance arrangements and Remembrance Ceremony down by the river and we will be remembering nineteen departed from seventeen Clubs.

S.A.A. Graham: Calls forward Nominations Committee Chairman PDG Barry Davis.

Chairman PDG Barry Davis: I have an announcement to make and it's not one I have pleasure advising the Convention. We have a small problem with the voting. The first vote conducted with the first vote you cast, is in order with the correct number of delegates and the correct number of votes have been cast. But we have a problem with the second votes that have been cast as we have an inconsistency with the number of delegates compared to the Credentials Report. I have spoken to our C& BL Officer and we have a solution to it and I would like Arthur and perhaps between the two of us we can explain from a Constitutional point of view the procedure we can take to rectify the problem.

C&BL Chairman PDG Arthur Uren: Thank you PDG Barry.

This is not the first time that this situation has arisen. I believe and I was present at the Buninyong Convention where a similar situation occurred and as such I am pleased to advise that we have a precedent that has been set. However I do need to confirm that we have a quorum, so if you would like to raise your cards please. Quorum confirmed.

The next step is, I need to call on the Credentials Committee and ask for a fresh Credential Report. But what I need to do is to get you acceptance of that to occur, so if you have no objections to receiving that Credentials Report.

Call on Cabinet Secretary Ron for that report.

Cabinet Secretary PDG Ron Thomas: Thank you Chairman Arthur. Just an update on the Credentials Report: I mentioned earlier today that we had fifty nine voting delegates but that appears to be out by one. In actual fact when going through the records we have sixty delegates and we were made aware of this when we counted up the delegates voting cards and found sixty there and that is good to see that we had a one hundred percent turn out in delegates to vote. So I guess we really need to acknowledge the fact that there has been an error made and there are not fifty nine delegates but actually sixty. With that in mind we would probably need somebody to move a Motion that the updated Credential Report of sixty be in effect.

ZC Julie Starec moved a Motion that the updated Credential Report numbering sixty and not fifty nine registered Delegates be accepted. Motion seconded by PDG David Ashmore. Motion carried.

Nomination Chairman PDG Barry Davis: That means that the votes can now be counted.

PDG David Ashmore: Point of Order: We need a Motion moved that the votes cast be valid.

Nomination Chairman PDG Barry Davis: Yes. Calls upon C&BL Chairman PDG Arthur Uren to move a Motion that the votes, as cast be valid.

C&BL Chairman PDG Arthur Uren: You have heard Barry and I need some body to move that the votes as cast be valid. Motion moved by PDG Nancy Dean, LC Mount Bolton & District. This Motion seconded by PDG David Ashmore, LC of Sebastopol & District. Motion carried.

Nominations Chairman PDG Barry Davis: Now the votes, legally, can be locked away and counted and results given tomorrow.

SUNDAY OCTOBER 25th.

Remembrance Ceremony

“We Remember”

Lions Club of Avoca	Lion Colin (Mick) Mathews
	Lion Lewis (Max) Howlett
Lions Club of Ballarat	Lion Peter Larcombe
Lions Club of Beulah	Lion Alan Kranz
	Lion Thomas Lummsden
Lions Club of Brunswick	Lion Vern Tedge
Lions Club of Brim	Lion Heather Murphy
Lions Club of Carisbrook	Lion George Smith
Lions Club of Creswick	Lion Joy Toulmin
Lions Club of Culgoa	Lion Lindsay (Blue) Hoddgson
Lions Club of Donald	Partner Elva Leeder
	Lion Mathew Davidson
Lions Club of Greensborough	Lion Robert John Weekes
Lions Club of Kangaroo Flat	Lion Neale Wilson
Lions Club of Melbourne Host	Lion Arthur Isaacson
Lions Club of Northcote	Lion Harold Steere
Lions Club of Ouyen	Lion Raymond Manley
Lions Club of Swan Hill	Lion Barry Jennings
Lions Club of Wycheproof	Lion Thomas (Hugh) Trewin

S.A.A. Graham Allen: Some house rules and then stand for Invocation by Chairman Geoff Windmill. Cabinet Secretary PDG Ron called upon for a Credentials report.

Chairman Geoff Windmill: Presents Invocation

Cabinet Secretary PDG Ron Thomas: Thank you SAA Graham. DG Jill and Conventioneers one and all.

The Credentials report is pretty much the same as yesterday. There have been a few additions with PDG's Conventioneers, Lionesses and guests; we have one hundred and twenty nine officially registered. On the voting side of things with PDG's and delegates we have sixty delegates. Show your cards to establish a quorum.

S.A.A. Graham Allen: Thank you Ron. Pass over to DG Jill for any unfinished or new business that may arise this morning.

DG Jill: Thank you. Firstly do we have any first Conventioneers since the last time I asked for first Conventioneers? If this is the first time please stand. Three people stand making it twenty three first time Conventioneers. Another group of people that I have not acknowledged this weekend are Life Members. Please stand also.

Forum Reports:

Youth Forum Report: Chaired by PDG Barry Davis.

DG Jill, members of the Lions family, good morning all.

I conducted the Youth forum; it was very well attended thanks to the panel members. We did an introduction of the panel members and then a question and answer session. We were very lucky to have Ron Skeen on our panel and Ron was very informative with quite a few questions that came up on his Services and helped out with Youth of the Year and Youth Exchange etc.

Not a lot came out from a point of view of reporting back to the Convention, only general information. There was one thing that came up that Clubs may not be aware of and that is there are quite a few Clubs have not received their Youth of the Year kits as yet. If you have not received them, contact the Youth of the Year Chairman and get organised. Ron Skeen said the Youth of the Year in 2011 will not be have a time frame for Clubs to do the Club level in late February and it will have to be done earlier because of the MD Launceston Convention. Thank you.

Communication Forum Report: Chaired by PDG John Thorpe

DG Jill. We had an excellent Forum, Malcolm Qualtrough as Inter-net Chairman, Harry Brindley as Public Relations Chairman, Cabinet Secretary PDG Ron Thomas.

The main topic being the Newsletter and its distribution: Very positive meeting, talking about modern communication leaning towards getting away from the Newsletter being e-mailed and posted in hard copies to Clubs and mailing only Clubs that want a hard copy. Cabinet Treasurer Paul Tjioe, although not a panel member contributed valuably to the Forum with his input regarding costs to the District. Two things came out of the Forum

Environmentally: We should really think if we really need to print. It comes to your computer and you can read it on the screen and you can save it or you can delete it, it's saving the environment and Robyn Falloon the Newsletter Editor is very conscious of that.

The other aspect of it was raised by Paul Tjioe, it was that every single envelope and content that either Robyn or Ron puts in the mail to costs the District, and Paul put it quite plainly as long as we can contain our costs then he won't have to go to a Convention and ask for a dues rise. Each Club converting from hard copy to getting it electronically and reading it on the computer is not only helping their own Club and the environment but they are helping to keep the cost of being a Lion in the District, down. One worthwhile point to come out of this.

The other main part that came out was Harry. PR Chairman Harry Brindley is willing to share what is happening and only three Clubs have been in touch with him and he wants to share with the District. Send everything to Harry and Harry will determine what goes out. DG Jill a very informative meeting, a Club was going to go electronically as a result; I thought this a very positive action.

Membership Forum Report: Chaired by PDG Eric Gittins.

DG Jill. Membership, Extension, Retention and Leadership: Probably one of the hardest to really convey a message to you in a very brief space of time. What it involved with was talking about the structure of Clubs which included Membership and doubling membership to just one or two of your members, get everybody involved in it. New Clubs, again its part of our growth, we need to get Clubs because otherwise we will find that we start to stagnate a little bit. One of the comments that was made was in regard to the fact that if we do not keep growing, where will we be in twenty years time. The structure of the MERL team was mentioned from International level down to Club level and its Membership Chairman. Now you may only have one, two or three which is the actual recommendation, but it all depends on the size of your Club. In Jill's year it was mentioned of getting two new Clubs up and running and we certainly have prospects of one being formed in Taylors Lakes. I'm not sure about the second one but I do know of a couple of Leo Clubs that are on the horizon and they are not too far away. All Clubs should have a membership plan; use it to get your new members in and find something for them to do. Get an activity going, find something new for your Club to have a look at. One of the biggest problems is drops and we all have members who are dropped. Let's see if we can call back particular problems, find out if people are disenchanted, find out why and see if we can change, get the Clubs attitude to change, to be able to get them to come back and say "yes" I want to be part of this again. Leadership training: That's where the President, Secretary, and Treasurer your Lion Tamer are able to run the meetings a little bit better. Some can do it very well some struggle and if your President is not completely au fait with running a meeting, use the Lion Tamer to do it. The other possibility is with your in-coming Officers and to ensure that you do get, where possible, your in-coming President, Secretary, Treasure etc and the old comment that came out, "been there done that" Things change, they change every year, and you need to be able to get the updated information. A couple of questions came out of it. One question, in regard to food handlers and what the current situation is? That was dealt with there and you really need to check with your local Council and also if you have an ageing Club, a suggestion came forward in regarding how to use them, "a grandfather Club" and get that particular Club to help and try and sponsor a young group. You want get twenty. thirty year olds joining a Club of sixty or seventy years old, it's just not on and they just don't want to, but there is nothing to stop them being able to join their own group and being supported by, as a mentor group of the older Lions. Nothing wrong with that at all and obviously the change in attitude of the way that we run meetings. The "old hat" that you have to have the regalia out, you got to have the Objects and Ethics at every meeting, you do not have too we all know that; let's see if we can instil that into the younger members as they probably do not want it so they would be happy not to have that particular part. One final comment, there is a membership disc that is available for all Clubs and you will need to see Graeme Lukey if you have not got yours. That concludes the MERL Report.

Community Services Forum Report: Chaired by PDG Arthur Uren.

Thank you DG Jill.

I had the delighted pleasure to run the Community Services Forum yesterday afternoon and it's ever present in my mind that contained within this Organisation we have some wonderful knowledgeable people that are absolutely passionate about a whole range of issues in our community. And the seven presenters that I had on the panel yesterday, I think, achieved what I set out to do which was to have a very interactive Forum and the presenters presented, via a power point presentation, thanks to Geoff Stubbs for helping me with, and they presented their portfolio on the various Community projects that exist out there in the community. The things that we do the things that we get involved in. There were about twelve attendees and I do not think that there was one who did not have something to say or have a question to ask. There were many many questions, we succeeded in having an interactive Forum, I would have to suggest that we have some wonderful Foundations and PDG Margaret spoke on those and the VLF, ALF and the Lions House Foundation. We have got cakes and mints and so many things out there that we do and there are so many questions that are unanswered. We have got a very skilled group of people in our midst and they might be the Cabinet Officers, but they are Lions like you and I and they are so talented at getting their message out to you people and wanting to come and speak to your Club. And I think if there was a single result from yesterday it was these people would travel many hundreds of kilometres to come and visit you and talk to you about their portfolio, and I would encourage you to seek them out and invite them to come and speak to you at your Club. Other than that DG Jill that's about all I want to report at this stage. Thank you.

Lioness Liaison Officer: Mary Jolly

District Governor Jill, members of the Lion's family and guests. Thank you for the opportunity to present the achievements of our Lioness clubs.

Commitment and dedication to our communities are ongoing with some new and innovative projects; We hold successful Forums each year which keep us all up to date with what is going on with our District. With clubs delivering their reports it gives us an opportunity to tap into new ideas for fundraising and social events. Each year the clubs work toward a joint project, 2008/2009 being the B.H.S Neo Natal Special Nursery, the total raised was \$2210. This year at the forum it was decided that we work for the Lai Lioness Club of KaiPot, New Guinea. The members of this club provide one hundred and twenty meals a day, seven days a week to the patients of their local hospital as no food is supplied except from families, many of whom cannot afford it.

Working bees are a great way for club members to interact socially and get to know one another. Meeting socially also helps us to know if one of our own needs help. Attending conventions is also important. It keeps us up to date with changes within the Lions Family. I hope to encourage more Lionesses to attend Conventions whether they are partners of Lion's or not. A very important part of the Lioness year is the Annual Breakaway. Started as a District social picnic it has progressed to a well structured weekend with Lioness clubs from 4 states attending along with their Multiple District representatives. Fun, fellowship, guest speakers, information and a wonderful memorial service rounds off a great weekend. Guest speakers are many and varied for Forums and Breakaways, those from Lions keep us informed to the needs and changes of the wider Lion's family. Community and volunteer speakers are an inspiration to our members. We look forward to District Governor visits. To be able to spend time with such a busy person on a more intimate and personal level and hear the story behind their Bannerette and badge, their project for the year and those of the International President.

Fundraising consists of many BBQ's catering for Lion's dinners and communities, decorating Lion Christmas cakes and many hours in Op Shops. Hands on projects include meals on wheels, palliative care, quilting, sewing, shopping for the elderly, hostel support, and Christmas dinners for seniors, blue light assistance, and fields of women. An occasional social event such as Melbourne Cup Eve or Christmas Break-up enables us to let our hair down. Membership is always a challenge, just last month we inducted two new members into Brownhill Lioness Club. Thanks to the TV promotion we have two enthusiastic young ladies keen to learn all about Lions and become involved in our work, we intend to keep them active and interested. The commitment and dedication to Steptoe's Op Shop, the Ballan Lioness Club is in a position to fully fund a child with a Hart Walker. It was a privilege to accompany the club members to Go-Kids in Melbourne to witness four year old Leyla being fitted with the Walker and see her upright and moving for the first time. A final fitting and adjustment will be in about four weeks. Our efforts for the year have amounted to a staggering amount of service hours and fundraising.

With seventy members;

Service Hours	7342
Money Raised	\$74,000
Money Donated	\$50,000

We report on Lioness Clubs but we must also recognize the large number of women who support their respective Lion's Clubs on auxiliaries and committees of which there are more statistics. Keep up the good work ladies; we are all in the Lions Family

S.A.A. Graham: Thank you Mary and I would like to call forward Geoff Windmill to talk on mints.

Cakes & Mints Chairman: Geoff Windmill. Mints have brought out a one hundred and fifty gram pack of Lions Mints as a sample and available at the stand. They sell for \$2 per pack and they can be bought in twenty packs for \$25 so there is a nice profit margin in there, only problem is, you have to buy two cartons at a time. Also Mints are now made by Dollar Sweets. There is now only one manufacturer of Mints and they also have a new flavour in spearmint. "Eye drop" mints, one in a packet, very handy to have as an extra when selling cakes and at dinner meetings. Thank you.

S.A.A. Graham: Like to call forward Lion Eric Symons from the Lions Club of Maryborough to talk about the next Convention that will be held in Maryborough.

Eric Symons: DG Jill. Good morning everybody. We have had a great Convention here at Swan Hill I believe, and we have thoroughly enjoyed ourselves and we look forward to once again next year conducting the Convention in Maryborough. Those of you who were there last year would know where we conducted all our business sessions, so we invite you to join us in our fortieth year. This is our fortieth year of Lionism in Maryborough and on the first of June it will be our fortieth anniversary of our first dinner meeting and if you want to join us on that evening please let us know and we will accommodate you. We are going to call the Convention the "Roar in the Forties" and held on fifteen, sixteen and seventeenth of October 2010. All the functions will be held at the Town Hall and we are still trying to finalise where we will hold the business sessions. We are looking at the new school auditorium. President Wayne and members hope you will join with us to "Roar into the Forties" As we said before, fourth Convention and our fortieth year.

Promotion on Maryborough and paper work should be out in about two months.

S.A.A. Graham: My pleasure to call IPDG Alan Crilly to mention Awards for his year.

IPDG Alan Crilly: Thank you. DG Jill, members of the Lions family and guests.

I would like to congratulate the Lions Club of Fairfield as they recently applied through LCI; they are the first V1-4 Club to receive a LCIF grant for \$75,000. Congratulations Fairfield.

There is an International Presidents Certificate to John Thorpe for Lions Services to Children.

One for Henry van der Wolde the District's Leo Chairman for formation of the Leos Club of Central Melbourne.

One for PDG Helen Campbell for Lions Opportunity for Youth, particularly for work with comfort bears and Quest programme.

New Horizons Award to LC Strathfieldsaye for their work with LEHP and Diabetes education
Banner patches awarded to:-

International: Cultural & Community Banner Patch to LC of Essendon

International: Understanding & Co-operation to LC Sebastopol & District.

District: Loyola Jackson (2008-09) for environmental project to LC of Birchip.

District: Elaine Bouchier Club Media Award to LC of Warracknabeal.

MD 201 Lion Mints Australia to LC of Essendon

Best Club Project Award to LC of Melton for their House bus project.

Gus Shannon Membership Award to LC of Speed.

QHAD Award to LC of Sebastopol & District.

Thank you.

S.A.A. Graham: I would like to call forward PDG Barry Davis for the election results.

Nominations Chairman PDG Barry Davis: DG Jill, Conventioneers and friends.

I will announce the rest of the voting but I did take the liberty to announce the first ballot we conducted but just to put things in order for a complete finalisation of votes from the Nominations Committee I will just reiterate that Lions Graeme Lukey was successful for the position of District Governor for 2010-11. Philip Sheriff was successful elected to be the first Vice District Governor for 2010-11 and Fred Jacobs was successful elected to be the Second Vice District Governor position for 2010-11. The rest of the voting was counted this morning and I can announce the nomination of Helen Campbell for the VLF position was successful. The nomination from PDG Helen Campbell for the Lions Village of Licola Board of Management was successful. The two positions on the VLR&MRF were successful contested by PDG Eric Gittins and Winston van Haltren, and the extra nomination for the new position on the VLR&MRF of Marie Caven was also successful.

And LC of St. Arnaud, who was nominated from the floor, for the Convention in 2011. I would like to thank my Committee and those who were involved for helping me through a very trying voting period for the Convention and I look forward to not being here next year. Thank you very much.

S.A.A. Graham: Thank you PDG Barry. It's now my pleasure to call forward our DGE Lion Graeme Lukey to make his acceptance speech.

DGE Graeme Lukey: DG Jill, members of the Lions family and guests. I thank you all for the fact that you have supported my candidature for the office of District Governor for 2010-11. Much appreciated that and particularly the well wishes and expressions of assistance that have been offered subsequently in that regard. I think my task going forward immediately is, as a member of Jill's Cabinet is to continue what is a large portfolio with the MERL Committee and obviously to make the necessary preparations and do the training that is relevant to going forward so that I'm in a position to serve to best effect. So that's what I will be doing and I look forward to continued support along the way. What I would like to also say whilst I'm here is a real congratulation to the Lions Club of Swan Hill for the way that this Convention has been conducted and I think that it's very important because everyone who is here, I'm sure, has enjoyed the weekend and a got of satisfaction from being here and learnt a lot and what I would really add to that is please go away and encourage others to attend Conventions. It's most important that we get Lions coming to our Conventions so once again thank you all and I look forward to working with you in the future. Thank you.

PDG Barry Davis: LC of Brownhill & District. Moved that the ballot papers be destroyed please. Motion seconded by Len Cassidy LC Brunswick Carried.

PR Chairman Harry Brindley: Mary. Most people realise that another part of my Lions involvement is with "Freedom across Australia" and that is taking people with disabilities out bush. We do a lot of things while we are out bush and a couple of our carers actually occupy their time in knitting squares, love wraps. On behalf of "Freedom across Australia" we would like to give you these, to sew up.

Lioness Liaison Chairman Mary Jolly: Thank you. I will only take a couple of seconds of your time. The Lionesses will be sewing these up and with a bit of luck we will be able to get on to the love wraps, but if we can not get them to love wraps we are going to see if we can distribute them with within our local community. Thank you Harry and I have been asked to clear up something. Second VDG Fred Jacobs was present at our Forum; he has been asked if he has joined the Lionesses, we consider he has, along with DG Jill. He comes to our Forums because; he comes to them all, because he just loves Lioness Forums.

S.A.A. Graham: Thank you Lioness Mary. Now I have the pleasure to invite Lion Bob Turner to come and introduce our next Guest Speaker.

Chairman Bob Turner: DG Jill, members of the Lions family and guests.

It is my pleasure to introduce our Guest Speakers and they are from "Righteous Pups". They are Jo Baker and Kelly Stevens and please give them a round of applause as they are coming up and their dogs are named Razz and Bart.

Jo Baker: Good morning, I'm Jo and this is Kel, and we have Bart and Razz. Razz is full time employed by Righteous Pups and he won't actually be placed. He comes around with us and visits with the families and tells us a lot about the kids. He is a little bit aloof because he did not get to go on the last trip and he is very excited. We will show you some things that the dogs can do. Say good morning to Jill and Malcolm to Bendigo and Strathfieldsaye Lions and there are a lot of Lions here that we have already met. Thank you very much for your support as it's impossible for us to continue to do what we do without some really good friends in our corner and we consider Lions our mates and together we are transforming the lives of some very special kids. Let me tell you a little about Autism, probably a lot of you are well versed with Autism. Autism is probably almost in epidemic proportions right across the globe, it does not discriminate against culture or class, it's a development disorder that is sweeping the world. No body seems to know why, nobody really understands what's causing it but for the kids that are born, I think that it's less than seventeen every week, in Australia will be born on the spectrum of Autism. So it's something that a lot of professionals, the Government and many different fields are trying to get their heads around this Autism spectrum disorders. Now there are five main development disabilities within that spectrum. You have probably heard of Asperger's and kids with Asperger's, - they are still on the spectrum but they might actually be verbal and have some verbal words. They might lot have a lot of receptive language but for the most part they will be crippled in some way in three core areas which is what we call the tirade of impairment. Generally kids on the spectrum will be totally non verbal for their entire life. Some kids on the spectrum will have one or two word phrases and a lot of kids on the spectrum have little receptive language so they do not understand what you and I are saying to them.

So even if we put it in the simplest of terms they do not get it. Now for us, we rely a lot on the verbal word but we also rely on body language. So, I could have a look around now and have a good gauge who's tired, who's ready to start the weekend again and who's had a great time, who was naughty last night just by none verbal communication. Well kids on the spectrum, we do not make sense of it at all, not even a little so effectively they are trapped in a world that we can not break into, because we are so reliant on language and they can not break into ours. So that is the first major domain, communication. In many ways they come from a different culture and we do not understand and they do not understand ours.

They also have issues with sensors stuff. Eg. We come here today, there are a lot of people in this room and for some kids on the spectrum that have issues with their sense of smell, this kind of room would be overpowering for them to be here, but they do not have the words so they can not say to mum or dad take me outside as I'm not coping and they are not really sure what they are feeling. A lot of time with kids on the spectrum, they might have a feeling and being a little bit off, but they do not understand that feeling hungry and they can satisfy that by having a sandwich. For other kids they might have what we call "meltdown" and a meltdown looks like a major temper tantrum. I did not get what I wanted at the super market so therefore I have just gone totally nuclear. The kids on the spectrum, they are so overwhelmed with what's going on around them that they actually can not cope with the environment, they can not run away, so what they do, they melt down. Where I can remember my mum would have a quick, short, sharp sentence conversation with me and I would get up really quickly and start moving along. For those kids that temper tantrum or meltdown could last for hours or days that children can be off target so it really has an impact. Now the unfortunate the curse of Autism is that these kids don't look like they have a disability so all for all intent and purposes we see the mother at the super market and the shopping centres and we see kids having meltdowns and I look at them and go, you naughty little brat, gee your parents are not very good parents, and so the parents, because I do not understand in my ignorance that their child has a disability, they start to recoil from their community and before you know it, they are trapped in this isolated home where they can never relax, they never take a breath there is always something going on and it's all about trying to keep to tempo, on an even keel and that's what day to day is like for a lot of families on the spectrum. Some kids who can not cope will take off so we have had a number of kids over the past couple of years that have taken off. One little boy, in Richmond (Vic) who has escaped the house and was playing on the train tracks totally oblivious to any concept of danger or safety, had no idea if a train hits you and they hurt you and unfortunately we lost that little guy and another little guy who had got away from his career and was found a couple of days later in the Yarra. So this is the danger for often, after the stress for parents, is that these kids do not have any sense of safety or security, they will run across roads. One little girl we had got on the waiting list is obsessed with water so if she gets out she out she goes straight for the dam. She does not know how to swim, does not know she does not know how to swim and of course goes straight into it and a couple of times it's been really close and fortunately mum has spotted her just as she was moving down, and got her quickly. They are so vulnerable they often don't respond to their own name so they don't know that they are lost, they don't know that somebody is looking for them and even if you come closely they don't know "here I am" they just moving, trying to get out of being over stimulated in our world. So you can see why for a lot of families it's just assuring to have the children at home. Let's try not to do too much, let's not go out to much, as often, it's a nightmare. That's a very short introduction into Autism.

Display: Dogs react to written words.

A lot of kids have high anxiety issues as they find our world incredibly stressful and I guess if I stand in their shoes trying to make sense of a world that makes no sense would probably do my head in as well. Not being able to communicate to people not even understanding the simple gesture of a smile. I think I would become incredibly frustrated living in a world where I feel that I am the odd man out, so we do a lot of things to help the families to be able to keep the kids calm.

Kids love the feel of dogs' fur. We have a girl in Bendigo, she has severe Autism and is also ADHD so to go to Jade's house is like going to the Bendigo Show. There is always something going on, high pitched squealing, movement all the time, you come out of there and I feel exhausted. Now when we placed Ajax with Jade last November, mum and dad decided that they were going to sit down a watch a DVD. So they brought Ajax in, Ajax laid on the floor, Jade came in and laid on Ajax and for the next one hour and forty minutes the family watched a DVD together. Now Jade was not watching the TV but for the first time in fourteen years, a family they were able to stay in one room without having all the commotions going on and watch a DVD. Families on the spectrum want a little bit of normality, they want to be able to come home and have the stress level to decrease.

The dogs are also trained to interrupt repetitive behaviour, so with the kids with Autism they will have obsessions and it might be lining cars in a row, in colour, or size or just in order and if anybody messes with that pattern or inadvertently touches that pattern there will be a meltdown. So the dog is trained to recognise these signs of the meltdown coming on or the not coping when out in public and interrupt that. Now scientists in the States give the child with Autism the time to move out of the meltdown rather than going past the point of no return.

The dogs are always under the control of an adult or a carer or a parent but never the child. But for some Aspergers kids they might be on the spectrum but they might not be that disabled in many ways. They will still go through main stream schooling but they will still have major issues. So what we do instead of having the focus on the child we will have the focus on the dog. Little Liam had been bullied his whole school career because he is different, he does not understand that bouncing up and flapping your hands in front of a new kid is not going to make you a new friend it's actually going to inhibit your capacity to create friendships. Now we placed Astro with him and Astro had to go around to each of the school classes and Liam had to introduce his dog and show what his dog can do. Well that kid has gone from being probably the most unpopular kid in the school, now when everybody associates Liam it's with Astro. When they go out the gate in the afternoon it's "see you Astro, see you Liam". Now for that kid that's just a whole world of difference to him and he loves it, he's got a big smile on his face he's not fighting mum every morning to get to school because school has stopped being a horrendous place to be. So Liam now when he is trying to engage conversation or his mother is trying to make a new friend and instead of this kid feeling all this pressure and anxiety and blowing, all the focus is on the dog. So Liam why don't you tell John about your dog and what it can do. Now when Liam gets invited to a party it's always Liam and Astro and for Liam that has improved his quality of life. A lot of kids on the spectrum will wonder off and again don't have any concept of danger or safety, so the dogs are trained just like the drug dogs or your custom dogs, the search and rescue dogs to find that child. So Bart does not need to rely on that child responding to him, the child having a predictable pattern to take off for a destination, but the sole job is to find the child. We leave skin particles on the ground as we move and that's how the dog finds them. And for a dog, when eighty percent of your brain is dedicated to scent it's a "no brainer" for him. We had a little guy in Queensland and little Jodie can not handle anyone touching his hands, so mum is a single mum and she still got to shop, she still has to run the house, she has a little girl that is a couple of years younger and to go to the supermarket is near impossible because she will find she can not hold his hand as he will have a meltdown and if she does not hold his hand he will run away. So, how is she supposed to do the simplest thing as going to get some milk? Now, what we do with a lot of kids who especially have those issues is what we call "tethering". So Jodie's back pack clips on to a lead connected to a special harness to make sure that they are not hurt in any way and they are tethered together but it's an unintrusive tether. When Jodie was down for training the tethering was absolutely amazing and after the first week of graduation training you would follow them around and when mum said "sit" to Axle, Jodie would also sit so he had developed the pattern that what Axle did Jodie did. Now, mum would walk the Supermarket line by line where as before it would be straight in and straight out, also if Jodie wants to take off Bart is trained to resist it, Bart is anchoring Jodie and will actively resist if the child wants to run. In summing up, thank you so much for being willing to support us, we are very excited about the future of this programme and we can not do it without you. So thank you very much for your vote and if you want us to attend one of your Clubs, we will be there with bells on.

ZC Julie Starec: Firstly it's a great pleasure to give this vote of thanks to Kelly, Jo, Bart and Razz. As most of you know I'm a dog lover from way back and trained dogs myself and I know Labradors love their food. You have given us a greater knowledge and understanding of what Righteous Pups do helping with Autism and the spectrum of Autism. It has been very informative and the demonstrations show how highly trained these pups are and the way that they learn to take care of these children and the way that they build up such a close bond and a relationship with these children is just amazing. We have heard also that it's a twenty four hour seven days a week job for these dogs to do and to undertake such a great community needed programme. We have also learnt that it is a non profit self funded organisation and it's a credit to you both. As we heard yesterday there are one hundred and fifty four families that need these pups and that is just an overwhelming need. The programme started in 2002 and you have come a long way and your dedication shows us you have visited most of the States in Australia apart from Western Australia which is just such a great commitment for you two girls to have. I would also like to, on behalf of Jill and our District, I think it's just a great cause that we have taken up this project and it's just a great organisation for us as Lions to be involved with because the need out there in our community is greatly needed. On behalf of Jill and the District I would just like to present you with this bannerette.

S.A.A.Graham: Thank you Julie and I would call C&BL Chairman Arthur to move a Formal Resolution.

C&BL Chairman PDG Arthur Uren: DG Jill, members of the Lions family and guests.

In the name of Lions District 201 V1-4 I formally move our sincere thanks to the Swan Hill Rural City Council, Tooleybuc Sporting Club, Management and staff, in particular CEO Mr. Darrell Fishpool, Balranald Shire Council, the Colonial Old Time Band, Environmental Protection Authority (Victoria) Susan Chislett, General Motors Holden, Swan Hill Drycleaners, Oliver Footwear, R & G Jilbert Plumbers, Swan Hill Tourist Information Office, Monsoon Print & Graphics. Bendigo Bank, Swan Hill Branch and McAlpine's Sewing Centre. And in particular to our Guest Speakers, PDG Ron Skeen OAM, Mr Ken Knight CEO Swan Hill Aboriginal Health Services, Cr. Lois Lockhart Wakool Shire, Leading Senior Constable Sandy Birch Victorian Police Bendigo, Mr. Jason Watson, Kelly Stevens, Jo Baker from Righteous Pups. Having formally moved this Resolution I ask that it be passed with acclamation please. Thank you.

S.A.A. Graham: Call DGE Graeme Lukey to present our Ethics.

Lions Code of Ethics: DGE Graeme Lukey.

S.A.A. Graham: Thank you and I would now like to call DG and Convention Committee to the stage.

DG Jill: Thank you SAA Graham. I have a few "thank you" here so I'm going to make these wonderful people stand up here and view the result of all their hard work. I want to thank our official guests from V6 DG Alan Millar and Rose, I need to mention Holden and the nab for their continuous support of Lions, and it's just wonderful. Thank you to our Guest Speakers, so many of them have been just wonderful this weekend. And people who have travelled a long way just to get to this Convention and a special mention to PDG Mike O'Connor who comes down from Queensland every year to the Convention. All those who had a job to do either before or during this Convention I thank you for that, especially my Cabinet Secretary and the Assistant Cabinet Secretary, Ron and John and to Cabinet Treasurer Paul Tjioe also. Lions who have introduced or thanked our Guest Speakers, namely Pauline, Marilyn, David, Arthur, Malcolm, Sam, Bob and Julie. Also, our Returning Officer, PDG Barry Davis, who very capable conducted the Nominations and election process, C&BL Chairman Arthur for stepping into the breach at short notice and doing a great job. All District Officers who spoke about their portfolios and District Officers who arranged a display of their portfolio. Fantastic, a lot of effort has gone into that. The Lions, Lionesses who provide our Invocation, Objects, Ethics or Motto, Conveners and presenters of the Lioness lunch time Forum and the four Saturday afternoon Forums and to the District officers who helped run them. Josie and Nancy for the moving Remembrance Ceremony on the banks of the river and to Dr. Noel King, Lions Club of Swan Hill and the PDG's for the flag ceremony. Congratulations to all those who were successful in their Nominations and the best of luck in your respective position for future years. The entertainment, wasn't that great? Susan Chislett has been mentioned and she is the lady who provided the gift baskets for my Guest Speakers, and she did a great job.

DG invites Darrell Fishpool to come to the stage.

Darrell, we have a special thanks to Darrell, the CEO of the Tooleybuc Sporting Club and to all the Club members. It's a great venue we have had an abundance of food, everything we have asked for they have bent over backwards, even when I changed my mind half way through something. So we just thank you so much and I would like to have a Certificate of Appreciation for your Club and my personal Bannerette, with our thanks. Our sound man extraordinaire, Andrew, an absolutely brilliant job, we are all so pleased with the job you have done, again. A Certificate of Appreciation and my personal Bannerette. Thank you for the whole Convention Maxine Gaylard. Maxine has been flitting around like a gorgeous butterfly all weekend, she has done so much for us, and I'm just beginning to realise the amount of work Maxine has done prior to and during the Convention. Thank you so much.

And now we come to the wonderful people up on the stage. You have done a wonderful job you guys, well done. Presentation of Certificates of Appreciation and personal bannerettes.

And there is one more, the best Sergeant at Arms ever, anything I throw at him he deals with beautifully, a Certificate of Appreciation and our sincere thanks to you Graham.

Thank you all for coming, I hope you have had a great time and I certainly expect to see you at Maryborough in twelve months time for another wonderful Convention run by the Lions Club of Maryborough.

Enjoy your bar-b- que lunch and have a safe trip home.

Ron Thomas PDG
Cabinet Secretary
MD 201 V1-4

NOTICES OF MOTION

NM 1 Righteous Pups Australia - Autism Assistance Dogs

Submitted by: Lions Club of Bendigo Inc.

Be it resolved that this convention of District 201 VI-4 adopts a new district project to provide assistance to autistic children and their families through Righteous Pups Australia with review by convention prior to 30th June 2013.

Project term: until 30th June 2013 with provision that the project is reconsidered by convention prior to 30th June 2013 to determine whether to support an extension beyond 30th June 2013 or to terminate the project prior to 30th June 2013.

Background: Funds received will be directed to Righteous Pups Australia for the purpose of acquiring, training, caring for and allocation of assistance dogs to autistic children on the priority basis determined by Righteous Pups Australia

Financial implications: Any cost through donations by Clubs would be voluntary. Adoption of this project will not impose a cost to Clubs

Organisational details: If successful the Lions Clubs of Bendigo Inc and Strathfieldsaye Inc will appoint a committee to jointly manage the project.

Donations will be forwarded on from this committee to Righteous Pups Australia.

Committee details will be circulated to Clubs and the methods adopted by the committee will be subject to the approval of the District.

Any identifiable flow on effects or consequential amendments from this motion: Nil

NM 2 Petition the Government with respect to lawlessness and inadequate Community Service Order penalties.

Submitted by: Lions Club of Haddon & District Inc.

Be it resolved that this convention of District 201 VI -4 adopts concerns with issues of the degree of lawlessness and over indulgence of alcohol currently in the State of Victoria and urges the Victorian Government to immediately take action to initiate zero tolerance and instruct the Courts to hand out adequate punishment. Further that this District submits these matters to Multiple District and appropriate authorities for consideration.

Proposed term of project: until 30th June 2010

Background: The level of violence and alcohol fuelled assaults in Victoria are of concern. We want zero tolerance by Police and the Courts to apply adequate punishment. The Community Service Orders applied by the Courts do not seem to work as offenders are not subjected to discipline and/or not isolated from families for any length of time. It is suggested that laws should be provided that allow Courts to sentence youths convicted of assault and similar crimes to a period of service with one of the Defense Forces on the basis that discipline imposed by Defense Forces may cause a change in offenders' behaviour and way of thinking.

Full organisational details of the project: if successful District Secretary to write to relevant organisations in consultation with Lions Club of Haddon & Dist Inc..

Financial Implications/Responsibilities to Clubs within District VI-4 that decide to participate in the project: Nil

Any identifiable flow on effects or consequential amendments: Nil

NM 3 Increase the number of Trustees and make provision for staggered rotational two year terms for The Victorian Lions Rheumatism and Arthritis Medical Research Foundation

Submitted by: Lions Club of Northcote

Be it resolved that this convention of District 201 VI-4 approves amendments to the constitution of The Victorian Lions Rheumatism and Arthritis Medical Research Foundation to allow for an increase in the number of Trustees for a term of two years and for retirement and election of half the Trustees every alternate year.

Proposed term of project: Start. - Prior to election of Trustees to VLR&AMF with immediate effect.

Background: In 2005/06 the VLR&AMF was managed by District VI. This changed when two other Districts were asked to be part of this Foundation to allow funds to be invested with The Victorian Lions Foundation. One District did not take up the request and this was not known until after the VLR&AMF constitution was finalised. The proposed amendments that this motion brings to the Convention are just “housekeeping” to bring the VLR&AMF Constitution in line with two Districts. The exception to this is changing the number of Trustees to be elected from four to six on a two year basis with three each year. Currently there are only two elected per year.

Full Organisational details of the project: As managed by VLR&AMF Trustees

Financial implications/responsibilities to Clubs within District VI-4 that decide to participate in the project: Nil

Any identifiable flow on effects or consequential amendments: Nil

A consolidated version of the proposed amendments to clause 13 of the VLR&AMF Constitution follows showing deletions with strikethrough text e.g. ~~abedef~~ and insertions as underlined text e.g. ghijklmn

13. APPOINTMENT OF TRUSTEES OTHER THAN THE DISTRICT GOVERNORS -

- (a) All Trustees shall be members in good standing of any Lions Club in the aforementioned Districts chartered in accordance with the Constitution of the International Association of Lions Clubs;
- (b) At the ~~2007-2008~~ Conventions that adopt this constitution each Convention shall elect ~~four~~ Trustees as follows:

(i) Trustees are to be elected to generally serve two year terms on a rotational basis.

(ii) ~~Two~~ Three trustees to be elected to serve for a period of two years commencing immediately following the last of the 2007/2008 Conventions and ceasing on the First day of July 2010; and

(iii) ~~Two~~ Three trustees to serve for a period commencing immediately following the last of the ~~2007/2008~~ 2009/2010 Conventions and ceasing on the ~~First~~ thirtieth- day of ~~July~~ June ~~2009~~ 2011 subject to the following:-.

(c) There shall be one ballot and the two candidates receiving the first and second highest numbers of votes shall serve for the term referred to in clause 13 (b) (i); the two candidates receiving the third and fourth highest numbers of votes shall serve for the term referred to in clause 13 (b) (ii);

(a) The continuation of any pre-existing trustee to continue his term to expiry of that term when that pre-existing trustee commenced as a trustee provided that term does not extend beyond 30th day of 2011 irrespective of what the term may have been. and

(b) The replacement trustee of any pre-existing trustee who (ii) (a) above applies to shall commence at the day after the end of the term of that pre-existing trustee and finish on the 30th day of June 2011

(iv) At subsequent conventions representatives shall be elected at each convention to serve two year terms from First of July to thirtieth of June on a rotational basis as trustees with half of the trustees being appointed through due process to their position every alternate year.

(v) Retiring trustees or past trustees may be eligible to serve consecutive or additional terms.

~~(c) At District Conventions subsequently to the Conventions mentioned in clause 13 (b), each Convention shall elect two trustees to serve for two years commencing on the First day of July immediately following the District Convention;~~

(d) Subject to clause 13 ~~(c)~~ (b) nominations in each aforementioned District shall be in writing by a Lions Club of the District in good standing and shall be delivered to the Cabinet Secretary at least sixty (60) days prior to the date fixed for the opening of the District Convention together with the written consent of the member nominated;

(e) (1) Should no proper nomination have been made under Clause 13 ~~(d)~~ (c) or should the only qualified nominee die or withdraw prior to the time of the matter being dealt with at the District Convention then nominations may be made from the floor; and etc etc

Lions Club of Haddon & District Inc

District 201 VI-4 Victoria, Australia

*P0 Box 152
Sebastopol Vic 3356
Inc No A 0027072E
ABN No 48227820306*

*C.J. RIGG APM
Secretary
Lions Club of
Haddon & District. Inc*

District Governor, Lions of 201V 1-4 Dear District Governor Lion Jill & Lions,

*At a Business meeting held in July the following motion was moved;
"Moved Lion Murray POPE seconded by Lion John NICHOLSON that the President and Members of the Lions Club of Haddon and District express deep concern with the degree of Lawlessness and over indulgence of alcohol currently within the State of Victoria. We urge the Victorian Government to immediately take action to initiate zero tolerance and instruct the courts to hand out adequate punishment. Carried."*

The President and Members of the Lions Club of Haddon & District are very concerned about the amount of violence and Alcohol fuelled assaults that are occurring in the community of Victoria and we demand action by the power of authority to instigate a zero tolerance by Police, towards this problem and instruct the courts to apply adequate punishment.

The Club expresses deep concern regarding the penalty of "Community Service"; this penalty imposed by the courts does not seem to work as the offenders are not subjected to discipline and/or are not isolated from their immediate families for any length of time.

The Community service penalty does not have enough teeth to make the offender/s apply themselves to the court order.

The Club suggests that one course of action could be to frame laws to allow courts to sentence youths convicted of assault and similar crimes to a period of service with one of the Defense Forces. The Club feels that the discipline imposed by a Defense Force may cause offenders to change their way of thinking. A proviso could be attached to the effect that such offenders would not be sent into theatres of conflict. It would also be more effective in the Club's opinion if such laws became uniform in all states of the Commonwealth so that would-be offenders were aware that they may receive similar penalties in any state.

Our Club recommends that this matter be taken up as a District matter and submitted to Multiple District and appropriate authorities for consideration.

Yours in Lionism

*Chris Rigg
Secretary*

NOTICE OF MOTION FOR DISTRICT 201VI-4 CONVENTION - OCTOBER 2009

Submitted by: *Lions Club of Bendigo Inc*

Subject: *Righteous Pups Australia – Autism Assistance Dogs*

Be it resolved by this Convention of District 201 VI-4 that:

- 1. Assistance to autistic children and their families through Righteous Pups Australia be adopted as a District Project*
- 2. That the duration of the project shall be for a term concluding on 30th June 2013, provided however that prior to that date a Convention of this District may determine either to extend the project beyond 30th June 2013, or to terminate the project prior to 30th June 2013.*
- 3. It recommends to individual clubs in the District that they provide financial support to the project*
- 4. The Lions clubs of Bendigo Inc and Strathfieldsaye Inc jointly manage the project*

Explanation:

- 1. Lions clubs within District 201 VI-4 are not required to make financial contributions to the project. It is requested, however, that clubs make voluntary financial contributions to the project.*
- 2. As implied in the motion, funds received will be directed to Righteous Pups Australia for the purpose of acquiring, training, caring for and allocation of assistance dogs to autistic children on the priority basis determined by Righteous Pups Australia.*