

# Elvia's Epistle

Edition 6  
May 2009

District 201N5  
The Lions Clubs of Sydney and Norfolk Island



## Greeting to all

Well, this is it. As another Lions year draws to a close it is time to reflect on what a year it has been.

For many it seems so long ago that large parts of Australia were devastated by **fire and flood**, and it is truly moving to see how Lions right across district 201N5 responded so magnificently. Clubs donated in excess of \$340,000 in cash plus many truck loads of goods and materials. Congratulations on this fantastic achievement, proof positive that we are all serving our communities with pride and passion. The collections for the bushfire and flood appeal were simply outstanding.

Very importantly we have filled every request we received for **Hart Walkers**, thanks to you and your unselfish work. I am very proud of the Lions, Lioness, Leos and partners of the great District 201N5.

Although our Lions year together has almost ended I don't propose to sit back and relax - there is still a lot to do and together we have only seven weeks left to do it all.

## The M Word

Membership has been a constant challenge yet despite a number of problems we are within range of a plus result for the year. Many of you have risen to the challenge and increased your Clubs membership and I am grateful.

Lions, my final plea on membership is this - for our District to finish with a plus, it will require every member to make an effort to bring in one more member. I ask you to follow International President Al Brandel's example - he asked his family and friends to join his local Club and challenged his Club members to do the same. The result was that his Club's membership doubled overnight. Why can't we do the same?

If we are to maintain the humanitarian work that we do in assisting our communities both locally and globally, we need to constantly review and reinvigorate our membership. It's not just for the sake of numbers, but rather new members bring new energy and new ideas and, as IP Al says, one new Lion brings two more hands.

We have seven weeks to make a difference, to finish with a plus, let's give it our best shot. Together I am sure we can rise to the challenge.

## MD201 Convention

Our MD Convention in Melbourne was a wonderful opportunity to catch up with old friends and meet new ones. We were privileged to have IP Al Brandel and his wife Dr Lion Maureen as our special guests and they were truly inspirational. Gae spent some time with Dr Lion Maureen and I'm glad we were so busy otherwise the two of them might just have gone shopping together.



Our Prime Minister the Hon Kevin Rudd MP, a former Lions Youth of the Year contestant, gave an inspiring address and was presented with the Lions Presidential Medal. Over 1500 Lions, Lioness and Leos enjoyed many highlights, and in particular the Youth of the Year Final was outstanding, Matthew Mclean from Lake Macquarie North won the Public Speaking and Emma Davey from Launceston was the overall winner.

Congratulations are also richly deserved by our new MD201 Council Chairman for 2009-2010, our neighbour and friend from N2 DG Phil Lawler and Lion Darlene. The Council Chairman is selected by the incoming District Governors, and having worked with Phil over the last 12 months I believe he is an excellent choice.

We also bade a sad but fond farewell and a vote of thanks to PDG Bob Korotcoff for his years of outstanding service to the Multiple District. Bob has been Sergeant At Arms for many years at MD Conventions and has decided it is time to step back and concentrate on other priorities. Once the announcement was made, Bob received a standing ovation from the 1000+ people in attendance.

Most importantly I wish to congratulate PID Barry and Anne Palmer who received the endorsement of Convention Delegates to stand for the position of Second International Vice President.

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Make sure you get your copy of the June Sydney News for a more detailed wrap up of the MD Convention.

One of the last items on the MD Convention agenda provides the Cabinet Secretaries an opportunity to 'get even' with their District Governor, and sure enough we copped it. In recognition of Melbourne's fine weather we were lined up on the stage then dressed for any and every occasion. Of course we had to stay dressed this way during the lunch break where a succession of Tail Twisters took their turns rubbing it in even further.



## MD202 New Zealand Convention

In late April Gae and I accompanied District Governor N2 Phil Lawler and Lion Darlene and DG N4 Bob Moore and Silvana to the NZ MD Convention in Wellington. The highlights were the spectacular Flag ceremony, inspirational keynote speaker IP Al Brandel and the ANZAC dawn service. In fact at the dawn service over 200 proud Lions and partners marched in the ANZAC parade. We were greeted by thousands of people who stood 10 deep.

Of course New Zealand wasn't all work — as you can see, we felt honour bound to compare the local product with our own 'brown cordial.'



We also found time to visit The Shire, home to the *Lord Of The Rings* movies and while there I bumped into an old friend. No, it is NOT my twin brother, but he is a little precious.



## International Convention 2010 in Sydney

Have you put your name down as a volunteer yet? If not, then get cracking as it's only a little over 12 months away. Just click on the following link

<http://sites.google.com/site/lions2010volunteers/>

## District Changeover

Gae and I look forward to seeing you at our District changeover, where we will celebrate our achievements of our year together, serving with pride and passion. I remind you again that the date is Friday 24th July. Make sure it is in your club diary. The venue is La Luna Lounge, Condell Park.

I hope many of you will join us in welcoming Beryl Payne into the role of District Governor.

## Incoming Club Officers Forum

Don't forget this year's forum will be held on **Sunday 31 May at Bankstown Sports Club**. This day is essential for all incoming Presidents, Secretaries, Treasurers and Membership Chairman as well as all other interested Lions.

Please put this date in your diary NOW as it promises to be an informative and fun day. DGE Beryl and I look forward to seeing you there.

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## Leadership & Development Forum



Our Leadership and Development Forum was held on 29 March and I am proud and pleased to report that 79 interested Lions took part in four concurrent information sessions during the day. Thank you to all the presenters who did a great job. The general feedback was very rewarding as those in attendance commented that they enjoyed the forum and more importantly, some of them learned something new. Well done all of you.

## Sydney Childrens Hospital Foundation Salutes Lions

The Sydney Children's Hospital Foundation has acknowledged Lions on their new website. In their own words, 'we are proud to feature the extraordinary support we have received from the Lions on the home page of our new website.' To visit the site go to <http://schf.org.au>

## District Governor's Bowls Day

I'm sure you haven't forgotten about the upcoming Charity Bowls Day being held on Sunday 21 June. This promises to be a great day for bowlers and non-bowlers alike, so get in quick. Details are on the Coming Events page of your website.

## International Convention

Best wishes to Beryl & Ern who are leaving soon for Minneapolis to represent our fine district.

## District Trophies Are you in the running?

We will be presenting the following annual trophies to Lions at the District Changeover.

- Lloyd Morgan Trophy for Public Relations
- Allan Waters Trophy for Tail Twisting
- Ted Tricker Trophy for Club Bulletins
- Reg Prudames Trophy for Community Service
- David Bull Trophy for Top Club Secretary
- Diane Sherrington Trophy for Top Club
- James P Ledingham Trophy for Services to Diabetes Awareness

The perpetual trophies awarded to Lioness are

- Edith Lalchere Trophy for Tail Twisting
- Reg Keen Trophy for Club Bulletins

Of course there is also the Leo Club Award for Community Service as well as the Bessie Hammond Trophy which is awarded to a Lady in Lionism whether she is a Lion, Lioness, Leo or Lions Lady.

I again encourage you all to come along to the District Changeover to celebrate with the winners.

## New Clubs

I am really pleased to advise that we are getting close to forming three new clubs – one each in Lane Cove, Penrith and the Eastern Beaches of Sydney. My congratulations to all involved in continuing to grow our district.

Of course the Charter Night for our newest club, the Sydney Executive Business Club, is on this coming Saturday night. It's not too late if you want to come & celebrate. Contact new Secretary Mark Neasbey on 0411 464 259

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## The Year in Review

It is very hard to sit back and think through the highlights of the last year. I have consulted far and wide (in other words, I asked Gae) and we have agreed that the following are just SOME of the memories we will take with us.

### Some lowlights...

No doubt the worst time of the year was the onset of Mother Nature during the **Victorian bushfires** and the **Queensland floods**. However I was immensely proud of the efforts of our clubs in providing loads of support to areas of need. Again, great work Lions.

Of course every **Lion, Lioness, Leo or Lions Lady** who passed away through the year is sorely missed.

### But plenty of highlights

The **incoming Club Officers Forum** was well attended and we all left with new ideas and loads of enthusiasm.

The **Cabinet Officers training weekend** at Shelly Beach was informative and inspirational.

Meeting **International President Al Brandel** and hearing first hand of his theme, **Miracles Through Service**.

Our **District Food, Wine and Lovers Convention** last October at Cessnock, particularly our great speakers **PIP Lion Kajit Habanananda**, **Nick Glesson** from Vision Australia and **Leo Reece Coleman**.

Our resounding success in providing **Hart Walkers** to assist children with Cerebral Palsy to walk with pride. We still have a clean slate — not one child is on our waiting list

The Charter of the **Hornsby Leo Club** in July 2008 and the **Richmond Leo Club** in April 2009.

Cronulla Lions Club's successful application for a LCIF grant of US\$75,000 to buy ophthalmic equipment for the Lions project to help set up the **Children's Eye Clinic** at Sydney Children's Hospital at Randwick.

**Australia Day Awards** to Lion Amen Lee OAM, PDG Ernie Kidd OAM, Lion Allan Drew OAM and Lion Eddie Allen OAM, as well as being invited to speak on behalf of Lions Clubs at a special Australia Day ceremony to pay tribute to the Australian Chinese men and women who served Australia in conflicts.

Lion Pat LaManna being named **Senior Australian of the Year**, recognising a lifetime of work for the Australian community through Lions.

And of course, our unforgettable visit to **Norfolk Island**

## The Last Word

As this will be my last Elvio's Epistle, Gae and I would like to take this opportunity to thank each and every one of you for your support, friendship, kindness and assistance throughout the year.

It has been my honour and privilege to serve you in the role as District Governor. Yes, it's been a ball, and thank you all for the part that you have played in what Gae and I will remember as one of the highlights of our lives. However this is not where it ends, I am sure that we will remain friends for many years.

I wish all our incoming board members and every Lion the very best for the future. I would also like to thank Maroubra Lions for their understanding throughout the year.

Although we are nearing the end I am not about to give up. As IP Al Brandel said to me last week, we still have a few weeks to go, 'go find more members, please.'

Some people make the world more special just by being in it. Those people comprise Lions, Lioness and Leos — just like YOU. You are indeed everyday heroes creating miracles through service.

As Doris Day would say, Que Sera Sera

*Elvio & Gae*

*We Serve With Pride And Passion*