

Monday, 4th December 2006

MEDIA ALERT

Lions Launch Give Back to the County Appeal for NSW Drought

From an idea born in the Lions NSW Parliamentary Club, nurtured by DG Peter Mendl and embraced by the Lions Clubs of Sydney & Districts a major appeal has been initiated by Sydney's 78 Lions Clubs to raise and distribute much needed funds to NSW's most drought devastated areas.

"Donations to the appeal can be made in any branch of the Westpac Bank, and in Lions Community Chests in selected Sydney shopping centres," Peter Mendl the District Governor for Lions in Sydney said.

"Lions Clubs from around the state will also commence raising funds for the "Give Back" Project from December to touch the lives of 60,000 farming families and 8,000 rural businesses and their families." Mr Mendl said.

"Every single dollar goes to rural Lions Clubs working to alleviate the drought."

Lions have met with Andrew Stoner, Leader of the NSW National Party, and the Labor Member for Bathurst, Gerard Martin, in relation to implementing the Lions Give Back to the Country Project.

Sydney Lions Clubs are meeting with the dozens of country Lions Clubs to obtain information as to the precise needs of the families in regions most affected.

"This is not just a Christmas appeal, this is a long term project to provide much needed support to the farmers and the Country towns who have provided the city for so long." Mr Mendl said.

"The aim is that once this project is successful in NSW it will be carried out in other states through the local Lions Clubs," Mr Mendl said.

"Lions Clubs are perfectly suited to working to alleviate the problems associated with the drought because we already have the local structures and networks in place in almost every town in NSW," Mr Mendl said.

"Farmers are a proud lot who don't want a hand out but a hand up. Respected local Lions Clubs will join together and give these farmers, families, and businesses in the bush a hand up," Mr Stoner said.

Sydney Lions are planning to respond to calls for assistance with both emergency aid and longer term support.

MEDIA INQUIRES:

Project Chairman: Kevin Coad 0413 036 123

email: giveback@lionsclubssydney.org.au

District Governor: Peter Mendl (02) 9427 5510 or 0438 866 639