

# Sydney News

**District Governor Mohan Nanayakkara 2025-26**

**Official Publication of District 201N5 - Sydney and Norfolk Island - November 25**

Please send your contributions to Editor Roger Sherrington to [sydneynews@lions.sydney](mailto:sydneynews@lions.sydney) by 26th of month



## DG Mohan's Message

Dear Lions,

We're just weeks away from our **2025 District Convention (14–16 November)** **Wenty Leagues** and I warmly invite you to join what promises to be a vibrant and memorable weekend under our theme: **"Work Together and Have Fun"**

We're thrilled to welcome **International Director Lion Graeme Wilson** (from **New Zealand**), representing **Lions International Constitutional Area 7**, and **PCC Phillip Johnson**, alongside other excellent speakers and **20+ static displays** designed to inspire and equip us for greater service.

**Friday – Opening Night Highlight** - A special **New Member Induction Ceremony** led by ID Wilson—an unforgettable moment for new members. To register, contact Lion **Elizabeth Lessells** at [gmt@lions.sydney](mailto:gmt@lions.sydney).

**Saturday – Gala Night** - Celebrate with music, dancing and **surprises** as **"The Stents"**, a live 5-piece band led by **Lion Richard Shehan (Oatley)**, take the stage. Let's party in style!

**Hospitality Registration** is extended until **5:00 PM, Wednesday 5 November**. The full 3-day package (excluding the **sold-out Sunday breakfast**) is just **\$130** (heavily subsidised). **Enquiries:** PDG Ron Gattone – [convention2025@lions.sydney](mailto:convention2025@lions.sydney) | **0414 735 177**

## October Highlights – Lions in Action

It's been a busy and energising month **visiting clubs** and witnessing growth and innovation:

- **Mental Health & Wellbeing Online Forum**
- **Diabetes & Cancer Awareness Forums** – Burwood Strathfield & Turramurra
- **New Club Formations** – Harris Park Lions & Manly Leo Club
- **Wellbeing Project** – Sydney All Bright
- **Lions Trivia** – Sydney Champions Inner West (*in memory of Lion Gae Bergin*)
- **Tandem Bike Charity Dinner** - Nepean

**Attending District Conventions of 201N1 and 201N3 and more....**

*See inner pages for photos of some of the exciting moments.*

We are seeing **new members and young leaders** stepping up across the district - let's keep that momentum going!

Let's continue **growing in service and membership**—with **purpose, joy, fun and to leave a LEGACY**. I look forward to seeing you at Convention!

**Yours in service,  
Lion Mohan Nanayakkara  
District Governor, 201N5**

**Work Together and Have Fun**

## *Out and about with the DG*



New member induction at Lions Club of Sydney Host



Lions Club of Kings Langley Village Fair



Leo Club of Manly Formation



New Member Induction Lions Club of Turrumurra



Lions Club of Harris Park Formation meeting



At the District 201N1 Convention



Blacktown City Celebrated their 65 years of service with Barefoot Bowls



# DISTRICT 201N5 CONVENTION 2025 NOMINATIONS & NOTICES OF MOTION

The following nominations were received by the due date: In accordance with Clause 2, Section 1 of the District 201N5 By-Laws, the following nominations were received for 2026-2027. Full details of the nominations and voting procedure have been emailed clubs.

## NOMINATION FOR DISTRICT GOVERNOR 2026-2027:

**First Vice District Governor Peter Touzel**

Nominated by the Lions Club of Toongabbie Seven Hills Lions Inc.

## NOMINATION FOR FIRST VICE DISTRICT GOVERNOR 2026-2027:

**Second Vice District Governor Graham Estreich**

Nominated by the Lions Club of Nepean Inc.

## NOMINATIONS FOR SECOND VICE DISTRICT GOVERNOR 2026-2027

**Lion Tom Bozic** - Nominated by the Lions Club of Sydney Autism Community Inc

**Lion Rachael Hanlon** - Nominated by the Lions Club of Blacktown City Inc.

**Lion Scott Hinks** - Nominated by the Lions Club of Richmond Inc.

**Lion Wendy Lin** - Nominated by the Lions Club of Sydney Concord Inc.

A secret ballot by the Preferential System of voting as set out in the Commonwealth Electoral Act for the election of members of the House of Representatives will be held.

## ENDORSEMENT OF CANDIDATE FOR INTERNATIONAL DIRECTOR 2026-2028

**Past District Governor Anthony Cheung OAM** - Nominated by the Lions Club of Sydney Chinese Inc.

**Past Council Chairperson Vin Pang** - Nominated by the Lions Club of Sydney Inner West Inc.

## NOMINATIONS FOR 3 DIRECTORS OF THE LIONS NURSES SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION:

No nominations were received by the due date.

Nominations will be called from the floor at the Convention 2025.

## HOST CLUB FOR DISTRICT 201N5 CONVENTION 2027:

Nomination was received from: **Lions Club of Richmond Inc.**

## NOTICES OF MOTIONS:

**PROJECT NOTICE OF MOTION NM1 - Submitted by Lions District 201N5 Cabinet.**

**Lions in Support of Special Olympics Project**

**MOTION:** That the District 201N5 supports the Lions in Support of Special Olympics Project as a Category "B" Project for a term of three years expiring on 30 June 2029, when it is submitted to the Multiple District Convention."

**PROJECT NOTICE OF MOTION – NM2 - Submitted by the Lions Club of Coogee**

**Lions in Support of Caring Kids Charity Project**

**MOTION:** "That District 201 N5 submits the following Project Notice of Motion to the next MD Convention for renewal."

**NOTICE OF MOTION TO MD CONVENTION MOTION:** "That this Multiple District Convention adopts the Lions in support of CaringKids Charity Project as a Category "B" Project for a further term of three years expiring on the 30<sup>th</sup> June 2029."

**CONSTITUTIONAL NOTICE OF MOTION - NM3 - Submitted by Lions District 201N5 Cabinet**

**Nurses Scholarship Foundation Limited Revised Constitution**

**MOTION:**

**"That the Convention approves Nurses Scholarship Foundation Limited replacing its present Constitution with the new Constitution, as submitted to the Cabinet Secretary, who has circulated it to the Lions Clubs of the District."**

# Welcome New Members

The strength of our organisation is in our members and in particular those new members who join us to inject vital new life, ideas and enthusiasm into our Association.

District Governor Mohan Nanayakkara and members of District 201N5 extend the hand of friendship and welcome the following new members into the fellowship of the family of Lions.

MEMBER	CLUB	SPONSOR
Benjamin Keen	Blacktown City	Rebel Hanlon
Sherin Kilcourse	Blacktown City	Benjamin Keen
Jay Gaerlan	Blacktown Ponds	Rissa McInnes
Lilibeth Munar	Blacktown Ponds	Rissa McInnes
Amanda Wong	Blacktown Ponds	Rissa McInnes
Peter Zelas	Blacktown Ponds	Rissa McInnes
Tyler Jenkinson	Cronulla	David Sheppard
Maya Robertson	Cronulla	Brian Cowan
Bart Brunton	Lugarno	Reg Walker
Melissa Branson	Manly	Elaine Turner
Dave Haggard	Richmond	Transfer UK
Judith Haggard	Richmond	Transfer UK
Colin Chua	Sydney Chinese	Yammie Gao
Lulu Fan	Sydney Chinese	Duncan Lin
Jennifer Spark	Sydney Chinese	Colin Chua
Jimmy Yip	Sydney Chinese	Yoko Chung
Michael Yip	Sydney Chinese	Jasmine Yang
Sundar Subbaram	Sydney Indian	Sanjeev Misra
Le Chan	Western Sydney	John Huang
Ricanor Rigor	Western Sydney	John Huang



Inducting new members **Tyler and Maya into Cronulla**, including their first female member after more than six decades.



## Nominations for Contested Elected Positions

### International Director

PDG Dr Anthony Cheung OAM (Sydney Chinese)  
PCC Vin Pang (Sydney Inner West)

### 2nd Vice District Governor

Tom Bozic (Sydney Autism Community)  
Rachael Hanlon (Blacktown City)  
Scott Hinks (Richmond)  
Wendy Lin ((Sydney Concord)

**Work Together and Have Fun**

## 201N5 DISTRICT GOVERNOR'S VISITATION SCHEDULE AND DIARY 2025-2026

*Note: If there is a problem with any of the information below, contact Cabinet Secretary Jen Touzel 0411 173 227*

*Updated 21/10/2025 (Version 15)*

NOVEMBER 2025	
2 <sup>nd</sup> (Sun)	Executive Team & GAT Teams Meeting (Wenty Leagues)
3 <sup>rd</sup> (Mon)	Sydney Waratah Melbourne Cup* (DG)
4 <sup>th</sup> (Tue)	Melbourne Cup
6 <sup>th</sup> (Thur)	DG Visit (Sydney Compassion)
6 <sup>th</sup> (Thur)	Sydney Harmony Christmas Party (DG)
6 <sup>th</sup> (Thur)	N5 District Convention Meeting
8 <sup>th</sup> -9 <sup>th</sup>	N2 Convention – Canberra Valley
9 <sup>th</sup> (Sun)	2 <sup>nd</sup> Cabinet Meeting – (Wenty Leagues)
10 <sup>th</sup> (Mon)	1VDG Visit (Kogarah)*
11 <sup>th</sup> (Tue)	Remembrance Day
11 <sup>th</sup> (Tue)	DG Visit (Kings Langley)*
11 <sup>th</sup> (Tue)	1VDG Visit (Sydney Star Sun)
12 <sup>th</sup> (Wed)	1VDG Visit (St Ives)*
12 <sup>th</sup> (Wed)	N5 District Convention Meeting
13 <sup>th</sup> (Thur)	DG Visit (Lugarno)
13 <sup>th</sup> (Thur)	2VDG Visit (Sydney Eye)
13 <sup>th</sup> (Thur)	World Kindness Day
14 <sup>th</sup> (Fri)	World Diabetes Awareness Day Lap the Map
14 <sup>th</sup> to 16 <sup>th</sup>	District 201N5 Convention – Wenty Leagues
	Sydney Nepal Himalaya Deusi Vailo
	Oatley Lions Christmas Market Day
17 <sup>th</sup> (Mon)	2VDG Visit (Hornsby)*
18 <sup>th</sup> (Tue)	DG Visit (Kellyville)*
19 <sup>th</sup> (Wed)	International Men's Day
19 <sup>th</sup> (Wed)	DG Visit (Balgowlah)*
19 <sup>th</sup> (Wed)	2VDG Visit (Baulkham Hills)
22 <sup>nd</sup> (Sat)	Oatley Lions Christmas Market Day
23 <sup>rd</sup> (Sun)	Sight & Health Foundation/ Meeting – Bankstown Sports Club (DG)
26 <sup>th</sup> (Wed)	Sydney News Copy Deadline
27 <sup>th</sup> (Thur)	District GAT & GMA Meeting (Wenty Leagues 6.30 pm)
DECEMBER 2025	
1 <sup>st</sup> (Mon)	2VDG Visit (Sydney Waratah)*
3 <sup>rd</sup> (Wed)	Sydney Chinese Christmas Party (DG)
4 <sup>th</sup> (Thur)	DG Visit (Maroubra)*
4 <sup>th</sup> (Thur)	2VDG Visit (Chatswood Executive Business)*
5 <sup>th</sup> (Fri)	International Volunteers Day
7 <sup>th</sup> (Sun)	Sustainability Day Turramurra (DG)*
9 <sup>th</sup> (Tue)	2VDG Visit (Sutherland Shire)*
10 <sup>th</sup> -10 <sup>th</sup>	Mohan Unavailable
12 <sup>th</sup> (Fri)	Nurses Scholarship Foundation
13 <sup>th</sup> (Sat)	Richmond Lions Market

	Carols at The Ponds – Riverstone & District
	The District 201N5 Environment Day
	Frenchs Forest Carols Night
	St Ives Carols Night
	Blackdown Ponds Christmas Party Lunch
14 <sup>th</sup> (Sun)	Kings Langley Lions Carols
14 <sup>th</sup> (Sun)	Nepean Charter & Christmas Party (1VDG)
16 <sup>th</sup> (Tue)	Bangladesh Victory Day
18 <sup>th</sup> (Thur)	District GAT & GMA Meeting (Wenty Leagues 6.30 pm)
25 <sup>th</sup> (Thur)	Christmas Day
26 <sup>th</sup> (Fri)	Boxing Day Holiday
26 <sup>th</sup> (Fri)	Sydney News Copy Deadline
JANUARY 2026	
1 <sup>st</sup> (Thur)	Lions Magazine Copy Deadline (Feb-July)
1 <sup>st</sup> (Thur)	New Year's Day
15 <sup>th</sup> -18 <sup>th</sup>	1VDG Training – Peter Touzel
3 <sup>rd</sup> -11 <sup>th</sup>	Hunger Club Events
16 <sup>th</sup> -18 <sup>th</sup>	Second MD201 Council Meeting - Sydney
22 <sup>nd</sup> (Thur)	District GAT & GMA Meeting (Wenty Leagues 6.30 pm)
26 <sup>th</sup> (Mon)	Australia Day - Holiday
	Australia Day Sydney Pacific Flag Raising ceremony
26 <sup>th</sup> (Mon)	Sydney News Copy Deadline
FEBRUARY 2026	
	Deadline MD201 Convention Nominations & Notices of Motion
4 <sup>th</sup> (Tue)	Independence Day Sri Lanka
7 <sup>th</sup> (Sat)	Cultural Fundraising with Burwood & Strathfield Lions (DG)
15 <sup>th</sup> (Sat)	International Childhood Cancer Day
17 <sup>th</sup> (Tue)	Chinese New Year (Horse)
	Leo Forum (TBA)
22 <sup>nd</sup> (Sun)	Executive Team & GAT & GMA Meeting
26 <sup>th</sup> (Wed)	Sydney News Copy Deadline
28 <sup>th</sup> (Fri)	Nurses Scholarship F: Meeting
28 <sup>th</sup> (Fri)	Manly Lions 70 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary
MARCH 2026	
1 <sup>st</sup> (Sun)	Complete Club Rounds YOTY by March 1 2026
1 <sup>st</sup> (Sun)	Clean Up Australia Day
7 <sup>th</sup> (Sat)	Lions Safari Awareness Month



September/October update:

**Blacktown City** – fundraiser for Carevan. Honoured to induct two new members from Rural Fire Service into the club.

**Sydney Sunny** – Changeover and Diabetes Walk.

**Nepean** – first meeting of the new club as their Guiding Lion.

Global Action Team/Global Membership Approach meeting.

**Blacktown City** – 65<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

Strathfield Council Moon Festival – Lions District Wellbeing stall.

Multiple District Global Extension Team online meeting.

Mental Health and Wellbeing online forum.

**Richmond Markets** – run by Richmond Lions.

**Burwood** – Diabetes Awareness Forum.

**Sydney Champions Inner West** – Trivia Fundraiser in memory of Lion Gae Bergin.

**Cronulla** – visit on behalf of the District Governor, including induction of two new members.

**Berowra** – visit on behalf of the District Governor.

**Manly Leos** – Charter of new club.

**2026 Convention Committee** – online meeting.

**Harris Park** – catch-up to assist in lodgement for incorporation and ABN.

**Kings Langley Village Fair** – run by Kings Langley Lions.



Club visits fell short of the plan due to a disappointing lack of response from clubs. Of the three scheduled DG Club visits, none were held. Despite attempts to confirm the proposed visits—contacting multiple club members by both email and phone - I was unable to progress any visits this past month.

Despite the setback with DG visits, I remained highly active.

In addition to significant 2VDG training, Leos was a major focus this month. I was honoured to attend and officiate at the **Charter of the new Leo Club of Manly**. This is an extremely enthusiastic group of community-minded young adults that I am confident will grow into a strong and energetic club.

I also held meetings with three potential new Leo Clubs at three schools across the district:

- ☐ **Kuyper Christian School** (Kurrajong), sponsored by Lions Club of Richmond.
- ☐ **Moorefield Girls High School**, sponsored by Kogarah Lions Club.
- ☐ **Santa Sophia Catholic College**, sponsored by Lions Club of Kings Langley.

These are strong opportunities, and I will continue to work with them.

Mental Health and Wellbeing projects saw strong activity in October. Firstly, Lions clubs from **Nepean, Richmond, Blacktown City, Penrith, and Cambridge Park** came together to welcome four ladies riding a quad bicycle from Perth to Sydney to raise money and awareness for suicide prevention.

I was also fortunate to participate in several other projects, including a walk-and-talk organized by **Blacktown City**.

**Finally, the Lions Club of Nepean and I organized an online “Meet the 2VDG Candidates” event. All four candidates attended, each giving a 5–7-minute talk on their background and motivation. This was followed by a Q&A session with members. Based on positive feedback, this event could potentially become a future annual District event.**

**Work Together and Have Fun**



## Club Happenings



Congratulations to Sydney Follow Your Dream on the wonderful success of Cantonese Opera Mid-Autumn Festival celebration!



Today the Clubs of Cambridge Park and Nepean spent the day cooking up a tasty BBQ for the Nepean District Historical Society's annual open day. Many thanks to all the volunteers that made it such a successful day giving service to our local community. All profits for the day go to help the Historical Society maintain their wonderful museum at Emu Plains

***Work Together and Have Fun***



## Club Happenings



Congratulations to Blacktown Ponds Cubs for raising and donating \$1,000 to our ALCMF



**Kellyville Lions Club Youth of the Year success!** Cassie sponsored by Kellyville Lions receiving the District Lions Trophy for YOTY 2025 as our district winner, and also the Shield for Best Public Speaker in the State Final of YOTY 2025 which was held in Tamworth. Also in the photo is her teacher Juvena Baldry (Pacific Hills Christian School) and Lions YOTY State Convenor Diane Sherrington

*Work Together and Have Fun*



## More Club Happenings



Richmond promoted Wellbeing during their Market Day with a stand supported by Hope4U Foundation and Nurse Next Door. A \$7000 donation was presented to the Foundation's Di Russell. The funds were raised at the Club's Winter Sleep Out.

## Toongabbie Seven Hills CALMING CORNER Mental Health & Wellbeing



Toongabbie Seven Hills Lions transformed a small part of the stall to a self-care section, as part of their Mental Health & Wellbeing initiative at Richmond Markets. A selection of books, DVDs and CDs dedicated to relaxation, mindfulness and emotional wellness were available.

Where titles ranged from gentle yoga guides and nature document-aries to uplifting novels and guided meditation CDs. The selection was thoughtfully chosen to help people unwind, reflect and reconnect with themselves.

From poetry that touched the heart to self-help books that offered practical tools for managing stress, the literary offerings were a hit. DVDs featuring tranquil landscapes, slow-paced storytelling and wellness documentaries gave visitors a chance to take home visual escapes that promote mental clarity and emotional balance.

As one visitor put it, *"I came for the fresh produce, but I left with a book that's helping me sleep better. That's the kind of market magic we need more of"*.



**Lions supporting Ride4Life Suicide Awareness Campaign**

During Mental Health Week, Lions Clubs from Western Sydney including the **Lions Clubs of Nepean , Richmond, Blacktown City, Cambridge Park and Penrith** welcomed four incredible women and their support crew to Penrith as they celebrated the end of their penultimate leg of an epic journey across Australia.

### **Perth to Bondi, 4200 KMS, 40 days, 4 ladies, one quad bike, and a World Record**

All to raise funds and awareness for Suicide Prevention. This terrible blight takes 9 men and 2 women a day in Australia. The RIDE 4 LIFE (Bicycle Group) were joined by DG Mohan Nanayakkara JP , Penrith City Deputy Mayor Garion Thain, State Member for Penrith Karen McKeon OAM and National President of The Australian Man Cave, Lou Greco as well as Lions members and friends from across the district. A great night was had by all. The ladies completed their epic ride, partly sponsored by Lions, at the iconic Bondi Beach. This project also supports the Australian Lions Wellbeing Foundation. **The clubs involved will donate a combined \$3,000 to Ride4Life.**

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## More Club Happenings



**World Mental Health** week has been amazing. I was fortunate to be invited to join in on a Mental Health walk. **Rachael and Rebel Hanlon of Blacktown City** as well as some of their members plus Chris Barton took to the pavement at Harvey Park, Marayong, while supporting the efforts of the Australian Lions Wellbeing Foundation it was a chance just to talk openly about anything. And talk we did. Let's all break the silence and support one another.



Through the Lions-supported **CaringKids Charity**, Joy Boxes filled with gifts and surprises are delivered year-round to children caring for a sibling or family member living with a disability or chronic illness

Each box is lovingly created at the **CaringKids Toy Workshop** in Sydney, reminding these remarkable kids that they are seen, valued and appreciated.

**Thank you to all young carers making a difference every day, and to the Lions Clubs helping bring joy to their lives!**

## GST- HUNGER



Hello fellow Lions,

Firstly, I'd like to acknowledge PDG Derek Margerison for his contribution as the Hunger Service Chair for our district over a number of years. My name is Rebel Hanlon from Blacktown City Lions and as the incoming Hunger chair for 201N5, I look forward to building on projects and service activities in the hunger space.

Our club fell into doing food collections prior to COVID and have never looked back, our members look forward to participating in this service project each month and connecting with the community. From food collections, helping out at our local dinner service for those in need to donating to for special events - hunger has become one of our signature service projects and I believe through these activities we can collectively make a real difference .

**Work Together and Have Fun**





## District Happenings



### Registrations for Lap The Map 2025 are now open to the public!

As of October, Registrations for the public will be open through our website. Already having 20 teams, 42 total participants and over \$3,000 raised, we are well underway to our goal. However, with more Lions members, clubs and individuals from the public, we can all work closely together to reach that target goal of \$80,000. This year Lap the Map is bigger, better and more ambitious, with better incentives for individuals (and their dogs) and rewards for clubs who participate and raise funds for Lions Assistance Dogs.



Each Lions Club who participates in the event is eligible for a banner patch to represent their support in Lap The Map 2025. To go with this, we have tiered banner patches for Clubs to receive based on their donation amount to Lions Assistance Dogs.

As we enter the later half of the year, we are getting closer to Christmas time, which means new stock will be available to purchase through our store on our web-

site <https://lionsassistedogs.com.au/shop/>.



We will have new toys, some Christmas themed, Dog Christmas stockings and more!

As always if you have any questions about Lions Assistance Dogs, Lap The Map 2025, or any items in our store, please contact us at, [development@lionsassistedogs.com.au](mailto:development@lionsassistedogs.com.au)

## DIABETES

On 11th October, the Burwood Strathfield Lions held a vibrant and informative Diabetes Awareness Forum aimed at raising awareness and promoting healthy living within the community. The event brought together health professionals, local residents, and Lions members for a day of education, support, and celebration.



The forum opened with a captivating welcome dance performed by a talented group of Chinese dancers.

Throughout the event, attendees engaged in discussions about diabetes prevention, management strategies, and the importance of early detection.

The Burwood Strathfield Lions continue to demonstrate their dedication to community wellbeing, blending education with cultural appreciation in meaningful ways.

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# More Upcoming Events

**Richmond Markets**

**SATURDAY 14th  
DECEMBER**

**CLARENDON SHOWGROUND  
from 7.30**

**FREE PARKING ONSITE**

**Book a stall - Lions are FREE**

**Call Stephen 0415 647 226**



Join Us for a very Merry Little Christmas Party

**Date:**  
Sunday 14th December 2025

**Where:**  
Lakes Edge Park The Ponds  
(Park In the Greenview Parade)

**Time:**  
Start @ 11:00am to 3:30pm

Come share the joys of the season with us  
and spread cheer!

**\*Bring a plate with foods to share\***

**\*Kris Kringles value of \$20\***

For more information contact:  
Orchy Macquarrie 0434 418 238  
Espie Bables 0425 379 011

## ***RICHMOND LIONS ARE BRINGING REINDEER TO WINDSOR on Saturday 29th November from 5pm – 8pm.***

*As part of the inaugural Windsor Community Christmas Festival in Windsor Town Centre – from the Mall to the Deerubbin Centre - families will have the opportunity to get their Christmas photos with real live reindeer.*



Richmond Lions are partnering with Windsor Business Group and other community organisations to welcome the Christmas season to the Hawkesbury for 2025.

**Some of the Festival Highlights** will be our reindeer sanctuary and kids activity zone, lots of lights, market stalls, crafts and gifts, or course a Lions barbecue, bands, and a

Festive Frontage competition with Christmas window displays to be judged, and Santa will light up the Christmas tree in Windsor Mall to finish off the night. And there is a suggestion that Santa might even come and take “our reindeer” for a walk up the street to the Mall in time to see the Christmas tree lit up!



## ***Work Together and Have Fun***





## Have a Go – Make a Difference with Youth of the Year!

There's still time for your Club to make a real difference in the lives of young people in your community. The **Lions Youth of the Year program** is a rewarding way to connect with local schools, celebrate the achievements of our youth, and help them grow in confidence, leadership, and citizenship.

**Why Get Involved?** By taking part, your Club doesn't just help students – you also open doors to new connections across your community: schools, teachers, parents, and local leaders. These relationships often spark other opportunities such as **Peace Poster entries**, **LEO Club development**, or **joint school service projects**.

The program is designed for students who actively contribute to their schools and communities and who want to challenge themselves by presenting their credentials and speaking in public – all in a **friendly, supportive environment**. Just ask Kellyville Lions about the program – or Cassie, our 2025 District winner (pictured above).

**A Student's Perspective:** Those who read the October *Sydney News* will remember **Millie Coupland**, the NSW State Winner for 2024–2025, sponsored by **Armidale Dumaresq Lions Club**.

After receiving the State Perpetual Trophy at her school assembly, Millie shared these inspiring words: *"I would like to sincerely thank the Lions Organisation and participating Clubs for not only hosting this competition, but for creating a space where young people are encouraged to grow in confidence, through public speaking, resume building and self-advocating in interviews, ultimately refining skills for life post-school.*

*While there is no fixed definition for what a community is, if I were to give an example of a strong community, the Lions Organisation would be it... With that in mind, I encourage everyone to seek out and embed yourself in a community... In doing so, you not only support those around you, but also surround yourself with a reciprocal support system."* — **Millie Coupland**, NSW State Winner 2024–2025

It's hard not to feel proud when you hear words like these. Millie's message reminds us that the simple act of supporting young people has a lasting ripple effect — for them, for their families, and for our Clubs.

**Ready to Start?** If your Club has never run **Youth of the Year** before — or if it's been a few years — this is the perfect time to get involved. There's still **five weeks left in the school year**, plenty of time to contact your local schools and start planning for your **Club event in February 2026**.

Support is available to make it easy — including **templates for school contact**, **promotion ideas**, and **step-by-step guidance**. You don't have to do it alone; help is just a phone call or email away.

### Key Dates for 2025–2026

- **Club Finals:** by Sunday 1 March 2026
- **Area Finals:** by Sunday 15 March 2026 **District Final:** Sunday 29 March 2026
- **State Final:** Saturday 2 May 2026 (Host District N2)
- **National Final:** Monday 25 May 2026 – MD Convention, Adelaide

**Contact:** Diane Sherrington

District Youth of the Year Coordinator

☎ 0412 790 642 | ✉ [youthyear@lions.sydney](mailto:youthyear@lions.sydney)

OR – Catch up with me on the Youth of the Year stand at Convention next week!

**Work Together and Have**

# Australian Lions Children's Mobility Foundation

## *Fitting of tricycle for Ruby*



Ruby, is a 6-year-old child from Grantham Farm NSW who was provided a 16 Wheels trike at a cost of \$4,037.47 the trike was fully funded by the Lions Club of Blacktown Ponds Inc. Ruby is a charismatic 6-year-old girl whose laugh is infectious. She is bright and charismatic her laugh is infectious.

Ruby was diagnosed in early 2019 with Chromosome 4Q deletion, low muscle tone, and global developmental delay. More recently, she was also diagnosed with avascular necrosis in her hip - a painful condition where bone tissue becomes brittle and dies due to lack of blood supply.

Ruby received her tricycle on 7 October at Mobi Kids Physiotherapist Offices at Bella Vista. Attended by Mum & Dad and the members of the Lions Club of

Blacktown Ponds, their Cub Kids Club and Greg English ALCMF 201N5 district chairman.



Everyone there had a wonderful time, and Lions learnt about the needs of disabled children and families from Physiotherapist Lauren Sung.

Ruby is a wonderful little girl who brightened up the room as soon as she entered, she was excited and loved her tricycle. She rode up and down with great energy and fun. She worked extremely hard during her physio session.

This tricycle will make an enormous difference to her life and strengthen her and give her a much better life through fun and exercise. Mum and dad were very appreciative of the support and funds given to her by the ALCMF and Blacktown Ponds Lions.



## **YOUR OLD STAMP COLLECTIONS - CAN ASSIST**

**EVERY STAMP COUNTS - STOP** hoarding those stamp collections that were going to be for the Kids, Grandkids, who didn't really show an interest. Richmond Lions and the International Stamp Club DO. Richmond Lions Receive, Sort, Clip and pack every stamp received. They then go to Auction or Private Sale with all monies received going to ALCMF.

**Last financial year raised \$35,000; this year so far \$23,000 NOW totalling over \$430,000 to purchase walking aids for disadvantaged kids.**

**Contact Roger - 0420 987 842**

**Email: richmondstampdepot@gmail.com**

*Work Together and Have Fun*