



# BAS STATEMENT

**BIG AUDACIOUS SERVICE**  
QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

**ISSUE 1- WINTER 2025**

AUSTRALIAN LIONS SERVICE COORDINATORS INITIATIVE

## TOP CLUB SERVICE PROJECT MD201 NOMINATIONS and WINNER

### Esperance Lions Club Reels in Community Spirit with Top Service Project.

The Esperance Lions Club in District 201W has made a splash with its ongoing and highly successful *Fishing Clinic for Youth*, earning recognition as one of the most impactful service projects in the region.

Initiated by Lion Jim Hamilton in 2012, the project officially cast off in January 2014 and has since become a cornerstone of the club's service calendar. Held monthly on the first Sunday, the clinics teach young people not only how to fish—but how to do so ethically, sustainably, and safely.

With over **93 clinics** conducted to date, the program has directly engaged **806 young participants**, supported by **224 parents or guardians**, **298 special needs clients**, and **80 carers**. The catch-and-release approach, which has seen **over 1,450 fish returned to the ocean**, reinforces environmental responsibility while creating memorable learning experiences.

The clinics focus on practical skills such as casting, tying knots, and identifying fish, all within a supervised, family-friendly setting on a safe concrete wharf. Participants are also taught how to care for and safely release the fish, with all activity monitored by at least three dedicated Lions members per session.

What began as a modest initiative with just ten rods and a vision has now become a trusted and much-loved community offering, extending its reach to schools, disability groups, outreach services, and broader community events. Demand continues to grow, with the club recently expanding its equipment inventory to meet the needs of enthusiastic attendees.

This inspiring youth and environment initiative reflects the core values of Lions International and is a shining example of how grassroots projects can ripple out to create significant, lasting impact.

Congratulations to the Esperance Lions Club and project manager Jim Hamilton for demonstrating how service, when anchored in passion and community, truly leads the way.





### **Sydney Harmony Lions Club Champions Community Health with Diabetes Awareness Forum.**

On March 29, 2025, the Lions Club of Sydney Harmony demonstrated how powerful community action can be in tackling one of Australia's most pressing health issues—diabetes. With their impactful *Diabetes Awareness Forum* held at Wentworth Leagues in Wentworthville, the club brought together over **150 attendees** for a day of education, empowerment, and connection.

Despite rainy weather, the strong turnout underscored the importance of the event and the community's desire to take control of their health. Attendees heard from expert presenters including Diabetes Educator Matthew Smith from Nepean Hospital, Senior Adjunct Lecturer Dr. Ramy Bishay of Western Sydney University, and Jackie Batchelor, Manager of High Risk Foot Services at Nepean Hospital. Their insights into diabetes prevention, early detection, and management gave attendees practical tools to lead healthier lives.

The event wasn't just educational—it was also a celebration of partnership and service. The presence of District Governor Genevieve Jeny, along with District leaders and officers, added to the occasion's significance. The club also welcomed representatives from the Australian Lions Foundation and the Australian Lions Children's Mobility Foundation, to whom \$1,000 raised through the event raffle was donated—\$500 to each foundation.

This initiative highlights the Lions Club of Sydney Harmony's deep commitment to Lions' global cause of **Diabetes** and their ability to create meaningful change at the local level. With wide promotion across district channels, including the District Facebook page, the forum's impact extends well beyond the event itself, planting the seeds of awareness throughout the wider community.

With the success of this forum, the Sydney Harmony Lions Club has set a shining example of how a small team with a strong vision can make a lasting difference in public health and community wellbeing.



### **Hunger – Feed the Needy: A Signature Service Since 2010 Lions Club of Dandenong Supper (District 201V5)**

Since 2010, the Lions Club of Dandenong Supper has been making a meaningful difference in the local community with its signature "Hunger – Feed the Needy" project.

Held on the **second Thursday of every month** (from 5:30–7:00 PM), this initiative provides a free, hot dinner to approximately **45–60 disadvantaged people** at the Cornerstone Centre, which operates under the purview of the Dandenong Baptist Church.

What makes this project truly special is its grassroots approach. The meals served aren't funded by grants or external sources — they're prepared and donated by the Lions, their families, and friends. Every month, about **12–14 volunteers** come together to cook, serve, and connect with those in need, contributing roughly **30 hours** of service in total.

Since its launch, the project has become more than just a meal service — it's a symbol of belonging and compassion within the local community. The dedicated volunteers and families of the Lions Club of Dandenong Supper have created an environment where people feel valued and supported, making a profound and lasting impact.

**"We started this initiative with a simple goal — to give back to those doing it tough. Today, over a decade later, it has become a cornerstone of our club's service and a beacon of hope for many in the community,"** said one of the project organisers.

This long-running initiative exemplifies the very best of what Lions stand for: service, kindness, and a commitment to making a difference — one plate at a time.



## **Windmill Hill Lions Club: Honouring Service Through the Anzac Day Water Project**

Each year on Anzac Day, the **Windmill Hill Lions Club** of Launceston, Tasmania, demonstrates its deep respect for those who have served by providing a vital service to the community. The **Anzac Day Water Project**, an annual initiative that has been running since 2008, supports the thousands of people who attend the 11am Anzac Day service.

With several thousand attendees every year, the project ensures those paying their respects can stay refreshed and comfortable throughout the event. This ongoing initiative has become a cherished part of Anzac Day commemorations, reflecting the Lions' long-standing commitment to honouring veterans and supporting the wider community.

The project doesn't just benefit those attending the service — it has strengthened the Windmill Hill Lions Club itself. The initiative brings together members to work towards a shared purpose, builds connections within the community, and showcases the Lions' dedication to serving with compassion and respect.

With its long history and ongoing annual presence, the Anzac Day Water Project has become a symbol of remembrance and service, making a quiet but significant impact every year. The Windmill Hill Lions Club is proud to continue this tradition, ensuring that the Anzac Day Service remains a meaningful and comfortable experience for all.



## **Golden Grove Lions Club: Making a Difference Through Service**

The **Golden Grove Lions Club** has once again demonstrated its deep commitment to the community through its award-winning service project — a project that delivers real impact and strengthens connections within the local area.

This initiative showcases the true spirit of Lions, addressing the needs of residents and making a significant, measurable difference in their lives. The project has brought together volunteers, supporters, and the wider community to create a welcoming space that encourages belonging, engagement, and mutual support.

Through countless hours of service and collaborative efforts, the Golden Grove Lions have:

- Created opportunities for people to connect and support one another
- Developed a welcoming venue for community events and activities
- Supported local charities and groups to foster a stronger, more resilient neighbourhood
- Developed a model that can be adapted by other clubs to benefit their own communities

The initiative has resonated deeply within Golden Grove, making a direct and lasting impact. Its success is a testament to the power of service, collaboration, and the Lions' enduring mission of making the world a better place — one project at a time.

The Golden Grove Lions Club thanks all its volunteers, supporters, and members of the community for making this initiative a reality. Together, we continue to **Serve with Purpose and Heart**.







### **Lowood Lions Club: Creating a Community Hub Through the Open Door Gallery**

In the heart of Lowood, nestled within an historic railway building, the **Open-Door Gallery** shines as a beacon of connection and creativity for both locals and visitors. Created and managed by the **Lowood Lions Club**, this unique space showcases the talents of local artists, hosts enriching workshops, and provides a welcoming venue for social interaction and support.

Since its establishment in 2008 and its revitalization in 2021, the Open Door Gallery has become an integral part of the Lowood community. The gallery welcomes an estimated 757 visitors between July and December 2024, highlighting its role as a vital cultural and social space. In 2023–24, 120 local artists have had the opportunity to display their work, making it an ever-changing experience for patrons.

More than an exhibition space, the Gallery serves as a space for belonging. The **weekly Cuppa and Chat** attracts between 6–15 people at a time, providing a space for friends and neighbours to connect and combat social isolation. The venue also hosts the **Friendship Club**, supporting people living with dementia and providing a valuable support network for their careers.

With free access to a **community library**, regular **art classes and workshops** (from print dyeing to miniature painting), and **wellness activities like yoga**, the Gallery caters to interests across generations. New this year are the **Food and Plant Swap** initiative, allowing locals to reduce waste and living costs, and the **Open-Door Creative** sessions, bringing people together to work on their own projects.

The project has strengthened the Lions Club of Lowood, allowing it to unite its members around a shared goal, raise its profile within the town, and attract new volunteers and members inspired by the Gallery's offerings.

Today, the Open Door Gallery stands as a testament to the Lions Club of Lowood's ongoing commitment to serving its community — providing an inclusive space for creativity, connection, and belonging.

### **Canberra Valley Lions Deliver Christmas Hampers to Those in Need.**

In December 2024, the Lions Club of Canberra Valley successfully delivered **120 Christmas hampers** to vulnerable members of the community, including the homeless, aged, refugees, and women and children in crisis shelters.

Led by Hunger Chair PDG Lorna Gordon, the project grew from an initial goal of 100 hampers to a broader community outreach, ensuring more people received care during the festive season.

#### **Final distribution:**

- 50 hampers to homeless individuals
- 30 hampers to aged persons and refugees
- 40 hampers (including toys) to a women's refuge

Funds were raised through raffles, recycling, private donations, and a grant from the ACT Government. Support also came from the Canberra Cavalry, who helped with raffle fundraising and Christmas cake sales.

Packing took place in the Lions Club shed, with the help of Lions members, Lions Ladies, ACT Scouts, and volunteers. Deliveries were made across the ACT, with key support from Neville Tomkins (ACT Scouts), Lions members, and partners.

This project is a powerful reminder of the Lions motto: **"Where there's a need, there's a Lion."** The Canberra Valley Lions look forward to continuing this important work in the years ahead.





### Sunscreen Dispenser a Hit at Happy Valley Reservoir.

The Aberfoyle and Districts Lions Club has proudly teamed up with SA Water to install a new **sunscreen dispenser** in the popular recreational area at Happy Valley Reservoir. Since its opening, the reservoir has attracted a steady stream of fishers, walkers, kayakers, and cyclists — making it an ideal spot for this valuable initiative.

The Lions Club purchased and erected the dispenser adjacent to the amenities and water fountain, with branding shared by both the club and SA Water. The project has been met with **overwhelmingly positive feedback** from the public, with many expressing their gratitude for this added convenience. It has also sparked interest from other service clubs and SA Water to potentially expand the initiative to more locations across SA Water lands and nearby national parks.

Although the installation itself is complete, the club remains committed to ongoing maintenance and refilling the dispenser. Each unit contains 2 × 2.5 Litre cartridges, calibrated to deliver roughly **5,000 “squirts” per cartridge**. Since its installation on November 20, 2024, more than four cartridges have been used — **over 10,000 uses** in total.

While South Australia is fortunate to have lower skin cancer rates per capita compared to states like Queensland, this can be attributed, in part, to long-running public awareness campaigns such as “Slip, Slop, Slap” that started some 40 years ago. Today, the benefits of those efforts can be seen as families visiting the reservoir diligently apply and reapply sun protection for themselves and their children.

For the Aberfoyle and Districts Lions Club, this initiative is about more than dispensing sunscreen — it’s about providing a **simple, vital service** that promotes sun safety and allows families to make the most of their time in the great South Australian outdoors.



## **Kyogle Lions Club Delivers Dignity with Community Food Pantry**

In a powerful demonstration of grassroots compassion and service, the Kyogle Lions Club has become a vital lifeline for hundreds of families through its \*Community Food pantry\* project—an initiative that continues to transform lives across the Kyogle Local Government Area.

Launched in September 2021 in response to a series of natural disasters—droughts, floods, and fires—the project was born out of a heartfelt commitment to restore hope and provide practical assistance to vulnerable residents. With support from the Club Board and spearheaded by Project Manager Lion Roslyn Knights OAM, the Food pantry began with 90 clients, 10 volunteers, and just \$6,500 in funding. Fast forward to today, and the numbers tell a remarkable story.

The Food pantry now serves over **\*\*820 regular clients\*\*** with the support of **\*\*10 Lions members** and **28 dedicated community volunteers\*\***. Over the past three years, **\*\*1,898 families\*\*** have received essential food relief, many relying on the service weekly or fortnightly. The Club's 10-year lease on the Food pantry premises reflects its deep, long-term commitment to the community.

For the Kyogle Lions Club, the Food pantry has done more than provide meals—it has rekindled the spirit of service among members and created strong connections with other local organisations. Volunteers have reported both physical and mental health benefits from their involvement, while the wider public has gained a renewed awareness and appreciation for the role of Lions in the region.

“We’ve gone beyond feeding people—we’re feeding hope,” said one volunteer. And with the Food pantry growing stronger by the week, that hope continues to ripple through the Kyogle community.

## **Celebrating Lions Service Across the Nation**

This newsletter has been created to showcase the incredible service projects being delivered by Lions clubs across Australia. Its purpose is to inspire and inform, offering fresh ideas for clubs seeking meaningful ways to support their communities.

Compiled in collaboration with District Service Coordinators from every corner of the country, this publication highlights the power of service—not only as a cornerstone of our mission, but also as a key driver of membership growth and retention.

Do you have a service project that’s making a real impact? We’d love to share your story! Please reach out to your District Service Coordinator to be featured in an upcoming edition of this newsletter. Let’s continue to learn from one another and strengthen our service together.

Your National Service Team.