

Lions Club of Darwin Casuarina

Info for people who
aren't yet Lions



OVERVIEW

Lions Clubs International is a world-wide association of community service clubs with more than 1,350,000 members in 206 countries. In Australia there are 28,000 members in over 1260 clubs in all parts of the country. Lions Clubs are unique in that every cent of money raised from the public is used for community service, with nothing being taken for administration or personal costs. Additionally, the only publicly raised money that ever leaves the community is money that a local club decides to use that way.

Every club is autonomous within the broad constraints of its constitution and policy of the elected International Board, and every club decides for itself how it will raise funds and what it will do with those funds.

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HISTORY

Lions Clubs were first formed in USA in 1917 and didn't come to Australia until 1947, when the first club was formed in Lismore in NSW. Growth was slow until a boom in the 1960s saw a rapid rise in numbers.

The Lions Club of Casuarina was chartered in 1973 and has served the local community ever since.

ORGANISATION

Each club is autonomous and self-manages through a Board of Directors elected annually by all club members. Broader administration is handled by 19 districts in Australia which together form a National Council, all headed by elected members. Districts have a useful administrative function but have little real effect on clubs.

FINANCES

Clubs raise funds from the public in a multitude of different ways, restricted only by the Member's imagination. How these funds are used in community service is equally broad ranging, with the sole restriction that they may never be used for any sort of administration purpose.

For this reason members pay dues to cover all administration costs. These dues are levied at club, District, National and International levels and together cost well under the cost of a cup of coffee a week. Darwin Lions pay \$65 / year, due June 30th.

MEETINGS

Clubs choose for themselves when, where and how often they meet. Yankalilla Lions, as for the majority of Lions clubs in Australia, meet twice each month, with the Board of Directors holding a separate monthly meeting.

Second Monday every month: Business Meeting
Fourth Monday every month: Dinner/Social Meeting

All meetings have fellowship starting at 6.00pm and start promptly at 6.30. Dinner meetings usually have a good guest speaker; work meetings have no meal. All meetings finish by 9.30pm unless members vote for an extension of time.

MAJOR PROJECTS

Worldwide, Lions are strongly identified with sight conservation and work with the blind ever since deaf and blind activist Helen Keller challenged Lions to become Knights of the Blind in the Crusade against Darkness in 1925. Lions accepted the challenge and are now a major force with the average cost of restoring sight only US\$6 and over 8,000,000 cataract operations to date.

In Australia we are proud of our Hearing Dogs which we train and provide free of charge to profoundly deaf people around the country. We have a Children's

Mobility Foundation dedicated to children who are unable to walk, providing mobility devices to allow them to walk and play with other kids. Our Drug and Alcohol

Foundation provides education for young people and our Quest Skills programme trains school teachers to help young people learn life skills.

There are many more national and International projects and of course every club has its own local projects

YOUTH WORK

Leos Clubs are a form of community service devised to give young people starting from age 12 an opportunity to learn about, and practice community service.

Lions run an Australia wide Youth of the Year contest for senior school children which really brings out the best in our youth and invariably boosts our faith in the future. Yankalilla Lions supports Youth of the Year every year, giving local youth an opportunity to compete.

DISASTER RELIEF

Bushfires, floods, cyclones, earthquakes, any disaster, Lions are among the first on the scene. We have both national and international foundations able to take action immediately, always through local Lions Clubs because of their local knowledge of the disaster area.

MEMBERSHIP

Membership is open to men and women over the age of 18 who are of good moral character and standing in their community. Leos is for younger folk.

Membership in Lions Clubs is by invitation only however we would love to have you come to a meeting and check us out, meet our members and see what we do. If we suit you, and you suit us, one of us will be sure to issue an invitation.

LIONS IS NOT FOR EVERYONE- IS IT FOR YOU?

WHAT'S IN IT FOR ME?

- ◇ An opportunity to give something back to our community. Many of us feel that we should give something back to the “lucky country” in which we live.
- ◇ Opportunities to learn and practice new skills that can be used throughout life — skills like public speaking, leadership, training and teaching, even bookkeeping and many others.
- ◇ New friends in Australia and overseas, often for life.
- ◇ Travel opportunities — district, national and international conventions and more.
- ◇ Satisfaction in service. The look on a six year-old's face when they stand up and walk for the first time in a frame provided by Lions has to be experienced to be believed. Many other opportunities exist to find personal satisfaction.

◇Networking opportunities second to none—valuable in business and for travellers. As a Lions member, you can visit a Lions Club anywhere in the world and be instantly accepted as an equal - even call on them for assistance in an emergency.

COMMITMENT

As a Lions member, you will be expected to “give freely of your time, labour and means”. What that really means is that we expect you to attend meetings regularly and participate in projects, but both just to the best of your ability. We understand that family and work often must come before Lions. You will be judged on your effort to be a good Lion, not on how many meetings or projects you attend.

MORE INFO

FB: <https://www.facebook.com/CasuarinaLions>

Website: <http://darwincasuarina.nt.lions.org.au/>



WE SERVE