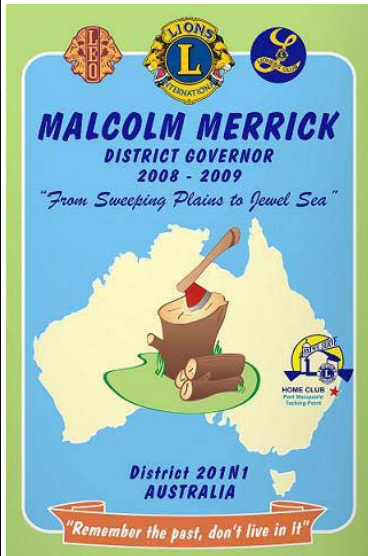




# NEWSLETTER



## OUR DISTRICT GOVERNOR MAL

Welcome to my first newsletter as District Governor for District N1.

I'm looking forward to the next twelve months together and see this a time for change within our community, a change for how we see ourselves as Lions and how we work together in the community.

Congratulations to IPDG Gerard & Lions Lady Jan on their excellent work throughout the District over the last 12 months. Your Theme of **"Make one change, make a difference"** hopefully encouraged a lot of Lions to look at how they are achieving their goals

My motto for this year is

***"Remember the past;  
don't live in it."***

Lions have a proud tradition of community service but at times some projects become stale and need a different approach.

I am putting emphasis into Public Relations this year. If you have a project then tell everyone what you have done. Reporting means getting to the media whether it is local radio or paper. Media releases are cheap and effective. You can send them anywhere and as often as you like. Tell the community what you are doing for them, if you make a donation, take photos, write a report and send it off to your local media. **Be loud and proud.**



DG MAL celebrated his birthday at the incoming Officers School at Kempsey.....Congratulations Mal....

*Not sure if the fire Extinguisher sign has any bearing on his age !!*

Motivation comes from leadership. Strong leaders bring motivation to the clubs and encourage good results. A strong leader will strive to get the best from their club, whether it's by being an example to everyone; by being willing to ask for advice and assistance or by confident to delegate.

The District Cabinet is there to help you with the running of your club, not to tell you what to do, but to give advice & guidance. If you have any queries about any part of the organisation ask a

District Officer. If they cannot help they will follow through till a solution is found. District Officers also make good Guest Speakers.

Planning your year - Start planning what you will be doing over the next twelve months. You can make sure that things are getting done when you plan ahead.

*"Be the change you want to see" - Gandhi*

Malcolm Merrick  
District Governor 201N1

**"THERE'S A HOEDOWN IN  
OUR TOWN"  
TAMWORTH  
10TH-12TH OCTOBER 2008**

<http://www.visittamworth.com/>

Hosted by the

Lions Club of Tamworth Peel Valley



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<http://www.lionsclubs.org.au/201n1/>

## DISTRICT CONVENTION

Jeanette and I would like to invite all Lions, Lioness, and Leos and Partners to our 31st District Convention in Tamworth on October 10th, 11th and 12th 2008.

Any Convention provides an opportunity for Lions to gather in fellowship and discuss your goals and accomplishments. Perhaps you will discover a new activity or you may be able to inspire others with your deeds.

When you attend Conventions you meet old and new friends and it helps you to understand more of the workings of our great organization.

The Convention Committee have been planning and organizing over the last 12 months to ensure all who attend have an enjoyable time.

There is plenty of accommodation in Tamworth and for

those with a caravan there are a group of Lions Club Vanners who know how to have a great time. Why not spend a few extra days in the area

As your District Governor I look forward to joining with you for a great weekend.

NOTE! Information and registration forms are enclosed with this Newsletter and are available on our District Web site.

**FROM THE EDITOR**

**Brian Bourke**

Welcome to my first edition of the District Newsletter. I would like to thank DG Mal for asking me to fill this position on Cabinet.

For those of you who don't know me I am a member of Manning River Lions joining 9 years ago. I have been on Board for most of this time having been Secretary 7 times and Bulletin editor 6 times, both positions I find quite rewarding and I continue on those positions for 2008-09. I enjoy my time in Lions and consider myself to be reasonably active in our club. I also enjoy playing on the computer thus resulting in the positions I hold.

Not new to Service clubs having been members of Port Macquarie, South Sydney, Armidale and Taree Rotaract clubs and Cundletown Apex Club.

I was raised in Armidale and after short stint with Aust Post on the North Coast and a Milk run in Armidale life has landed me in Taree where I have owned Bourke's Bicycles for the past 28 years.

Married to Helga (formerly Walcha Rotaract Club) and we have been blessed with 3 children all who have left the nest with Monica working with the ACCC in Canberra, Lisa teaching in Moree and Peter studying in Brisbane.

So that's my brief story and now for the Newsletter. I hope to keep it informative and interesting...well as interesting as paper work can be...and that's where we all can help. Please don't hesitate to send in articles and photos for submission. I will do my best to include them....remember it's our Newsletter so let's not keep everything a secret. Also if bulletin editors could send their bulletins regularly that would be appreciated. Post them or email it if possible...either way is accepted.

I will also include story's on current Cabinet members for your interest. Might even explain what Cabinet is some time for those who don't know.

Well this space is almost full so that's all from me. Happy reading and I look forward to your input

Brian Bourke  
201N1 Newsletter Editor.

Proudly supported by



**MEMBERSHIP**

A strong active membership is the foundation of our association and its mission to serve communities around the world. As membership grows, so do resources necessary to maintain our numbers. Therefore our focus on membership growth needs to be continual – a 365 day a year activity. Growing Clubs have a strategy for membership development and follow a well thought out and organised action plan. The “**Year Round Growth Program**” (Downloadable from Australian Lions Website [www.lionsclubs.org.au](http://www.lionsclubs.org.au)) provides tools, resources and strategies to aid members and clubs with their respective membership growth initiatives, awarding those who take the extra step and sponsor new members. Don't put off until tomorrow introducing this program into your Club. Remember that it is now 2008.

Travelling around our District over the past 12 months I saw newly reinvigorated clubs benefiting from family membership addition of more women and young people. Women's Membership is the fastest-growing part of our Lions Family. 2007-2008 membership reports show that we currently have 252,235 women members

worldwide which is a net gain of 14,757. This is almost 30,000 more hands that can help make a difference to our communities. These innovative programs and strategies are largely responsible for membership increases.

Membership Retention goes ‘**back to basics**’ – back to the reason we all became Lions. People will join our ranks because “**We Serve**” and will stay for this very reason. All Presidents and their Club executives need to take a managerial approach to Service. Our best, most effective clubs actively seek-out new service opportunities and experiment with new methods of meeting their communities most pressing needs. Not surprisingly clubs such as these are not only the most effective, their retention rates are also among the highest.

Loosing a member can have many repercussions. We hear former members say “I was in Lions but they did” ‘this’ or ‘that’ “and I left”. How often does the ‘that’ or ‘this’ refer to those individuals not being involved in community service and when they leave our organisation they will obviously talk to other people who may also have been prospective members.

**IPDG GERARD CROSS**

Membership Chairman

All Lions want is to :-

- be challenged and to learn from new experiences**
- take an opportunity for hands on participation**
- be valued for contributing new ideas and**
- be appreciated for their hard work**

Providing members with these positive experiences is the best way for clubs to improve retention rates and increase membership. Enthusiastic participation in special projects also improves retention and makes clubs more visible and attractive to new members.

It goes without saying that members just don't come to us. All Clubs need a plan and by now should be going through a process of renewal, formulate their “**Club Growth Plan**”, introducing a “**Club Care Program**”, conduct a “**Club Survey**” and a “**community needs analysis**” and raise Lions profile. Each person asked to join places us closer to inducting a new member.

Remember....NOTHING CHANGES UNTIL WE DO

**MELVIN JONES FELLOWSHIPS**



Lions John Kearney (Glen Innes) receiving his Melvin Jones Award from PDG Bob Holloway.

Each year Melvin Jones Fellowships are bestowed upon individuals recognising their contribution to the community. Melvin Jones founded Lions in June 1917. Recently John Kearney and Les Saxby received Melvin Jones Fellowship Awards



Chris Eford surprised Les Saxby of Manning River Lions with the awarding of a Melvin Jones Fellowship

**JAMES D RICHARDSON AWARDS**



Lion Greg Lamberth is presented with the James D Richardson Honour Award by District Governor Lion Gerard Cross at the Bowraville Changeover 2008

At Dorrigo Plateau Lions Club Change Over in June, Lion Jeffrey Gentle was presented with a J.D. Richardson Award by Region Chairman, Neil McKay, for his years of service to the Dorrigo Lions Club. One of our low profile members, a batchelor Dairy Farmer (and an excellent farmer) and the youngest



of seven children, never the less he has carried out his duties as the LionTamer of our club, with the utmost dedication since 1989 and in addition the duties of Lion Mint Chairman for the past eight years with the same dedication. He has set a fine example of service to Dorrigo Plateau Lions Club

**LIONS INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION BANGKOK 2008**

VDG Christine Woolnough

To tell you all about this would take much more than a small excerpt in our Bulletin.

The experience was truly amazing. It started upon arrival at Bangkok Airport to be greeted by some young Thai Volunteers who helped me maneuver my way out of the Airport and I did not even have to get my own luggage or carry a thing. Talk about feeling like a VIP?!

On the Monday queuing up for registration was truly amazing. Shook hands and hugged Lions from everywhere and of course swapped badges and email addresses and made

some great friendships in such a short period of time.

I attended a Leadership Seminar and once again apart from the fun of learning especially PDG Tom from Kentucky who tutored the Effective Listening section which was a laugh a minute, I came out with several more friends who insisted on having my photo taken with them.

The Opening Ceremony, the Grand Street Parade, The Taste of Thai Food and the Sawasdee (hello and welcome) Concert, the Closing Ceremony

and the list goes on.

Even the experience of being taken to Hospital from the Convention ( they thought I had a DVT) was an experience in itself! All I can say is that if ever you get a chance to experience an International Convention it will be a lifelong memory.

I can't wait for Minneapolis next year!

VDG Christine Woolnough

**HOLDEN SPONSORSHIP**

As you may have noticed this Newsletter proudly supports the Holden Emblem.

Well its not just because the Editor is a Holden man, its because Lions Australia has entered a working relationship with GM Holden Ltd, an arrangement which is for the benefit of all Australian lions and Clubs.

Please consider this relationship in the future. For more information your Secretary has a full breakdown on the sponsorship deal.



Glen Innes Lions Catering Van at the Sunday Markets

**INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY & NECROLOGY**

<http://www.lionsclubs.org.au/201n1/>

The 2008 - 2009 District Web Site went live on Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> June after the rising of the International Convention in Bangkok. I hope by now you will all have had a chance to "surf" through it. If you have looked, the first change you'll have noticed is that the colour theme has changed from the St George 'ish Red & White of IPDG Gerard to the Rabbitoh 'ish theme of DG Mal. I don't know which team Mal supports but I've tried to incorporate the colours of his Bannerette.

Other more important changes and inclusions are as follows:

The new Cabinet Structure Tree has been added.

The new District Directory has been added in easy to read format with email links to all Cabinet Officers and Clubs who have email.

A new section which has all the Monthly Mail Outs from Cabinet Officers.

District Governor's Itinerary.

A link to information on the Tamworth Convention which will have updates on a regular basis as I receive them from convention Chairman Paul Briscoe.

Since I also have the dubious task of being Necrology Chairman this year, I've decided to add an Obituary Page to the

Web Site and ask that information on the passing of Lions and Partners be emailed to me in time to inform as many as possible of funeral arrangements etc. I've also been asked to prepare the slide presentation for the Remembrance Ceremony at the District Convention so I will require history and a photograph of those deceased. Naturally I hope not to be busy with this part of my portfolio.

*Lion John Finnie*

*District Chairman, Information Technology & Necrology*

**Email: johnfinnie@bigpond.com**

John Finnie

**LIONS DIABETES AWARENESS PROGRAM**

Peggy Reehorst, Health Chairman.

Introduced in 1984, the program is a long term commitment of Lions International with the primary aim to :

- Encourage early detection of Diabetes
- “ “ treatment of Diabetes
- Save sight from Diabetic eye complications.

Diabetes is the fastest growing epidemic in human history , every 50 minutes an Australian becomes Diabetic = 27 people / day = over 100.000 / year ! 85 - 90 % of all cases are Type 2 Diabetics.

Contributing factors : unhealthy diet and lack of exercise.

November 2008 is : DIABETES AWARENESS MONTH. November 14 is WORLD DIABETES DAY.

STRIDES WALK FOR DIABETES = this months "Low impact Walking activity with Community involvement."

Lions bring Diabetes Awareness to your Community by organizing a STRIDES WALK in your town. Involve other professionals e.g. Diabetes Austr. local Branch or dietician.

Promotional material e.g. pamphlets will be available at Convention.

Information on : [www.lionsclubs.org](http://www.lionsclubs.org), follow other programs follow diabetes.

Contact me by phone or e-mail [lakeside386@ceinternet.com.au](mailto:lakeside386@ceinternet.com.au)

**DIARY**

- 12-Jul-08 Crescent Head Changeover
- 16-Jul-08 PM-Tacking Pt DG visit
- 23-Jul-08 Glen Innes Lions and Lioness DG visit
- 24-Jul-08 Bundarra DG visit
- 26-Jul-08 Bingara Cabinet
- 27-Jul-08 Bingara Cabinet
- 28-Jul-08 Narrabri DG visit
- 05-Aug-08 Taree DG visit
- 11-Aug-08 Forster Tuncurry DG visit
- 12-Aug-08 Old Bar DG visit
- 13-Aug-08 Gunnedah DG visit
- 14-Aug-08 Willow Tree DG visit
- 18-Aug-08 Crescent Head DG visit
- 19-Aug-08 Bellingen DG visit
- 20-Aug-08 Coffs Harbour Pacific City DG visit
- 21-Aug-08 Dorrigo Plateau DG visit
- 23-Aug-08 Save Sight Meeting Bankstown
- 24-Aug-08 Save Sight Meeting Bankstown
- 27-Aug-08 Grafton Big River DG visit
- 28-Aug-08 Yamba DG visit
- 02-Sep-08 Bonville-Sawtell DG visit
- 03-Sep-08 Maclean DG visit
- 04-Sep-08 Grafton DG visit
- 07-Sep-08 2nd Moree Motor Traders Show and Shine
- 08-Sep-08 Moree Plains DG visit
- 09-Sep-08 Wee Waa DG visit
- 10-Sep-08 Collarenbri DG visit
- 11-Sep-08 Moree DG visit
- 12-Sep-08 Bellata DG visit
- 13-Sep-08 Wauchope DG visit
- 15-Sep-08 Wauchope DG visit

## OLD BAR LIONS



Recently I attended the Lions Club of Old Bar Changeover. Old Bar is a very small club and most members took on the same positions. For a small club they have been very successful in fundraising and have made donations of \$6000 to the community over the past 12 months. Outgoing president Kevin Thornton congratulated his club on such a successful year.

Pictured above outgoing President Kevin with representatives from recipients of donations.

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In an effort to let you know more about our Cabinet members I have asked Bill Burges, District Treasurer for a run down. Thanks also to Ken Crampton for his submission, unfortunately its somewhere in cyber space

## BILL BURGES

Born 1942 raised and educated in Newcastle Bill has tertiary qualifications in Metallurgy and Education. He worked as a Metallurgist in the Newcastle steel industry for seven years before taking up teaching at secondary level. Bill has taught Science at Newcastle Boys High, Courallie High School at Moree, Melville High School at Kempsey, Bourke High School, where he was Principal for two years and finally Quirindi High School where he was Deputy Principal until his retirement in 1999. He also lectured at TAFE to Diploma Students for 2 years. During his teaching career, Bill was an active member of the Royal Australian Air Force Reserve that he joined at University. He was commissioned on graduation in 1965 and completed his service as a Flight Lieutenant when he moved to Bourke. He holds the Australian Cadet Forces Medal with one bar and the Australian Defence Medal. Bill was also active as an examiner of the Royal Life Saving Society spending over 20 years as a Senior Examiner (Level 3). He has been a Justice of the Peace for the State of New South Wales since 1972, Secretary of Harrington Crowdy Head RSL Sub-Branch and Senior Vice President of Taree Legacy Club Inc.

Bill was invited to join the Lions Club of Moree in 1977 by Lion Bert Carroll. He transferred to Kempsey, Bourke, Quirindi and Harrington Lions Clubs as his work moved him about the State. At Club level Lion Bill has been a Director and Bulletin Editor (Moree), Secretary (Kempsey), Secretary and Vice President (Bourke), Secretary (15 terms), Treasurer(2), Tail Twister, Secretary (3<sup>rd</sup> term) (Harrington) and President (2 terms) (Quirindi). He is presently a member of Harrington Club where he is entering his fourth term as Secretary having served one year as Tail Twister.

Lion Bill was invited to join 201N4 District Cabinet by PDG Max Cosier where he was Zone Chairman and Deputy District Governor (2 terms). On returning to 201N1 he was appointed to District Cabinet as Zone Chairman (2 terms) and has been a District Chairman (many terms) and Cabinet Secretary (3 terms). At the Kempsey Convention, Lion Bill was elected Lieutenant Governor (1993 -94) but due to changes to the International Constitution, Lion Bill became this District's first Vice District Governor. Bill Served as Vice District Governor 1998 - 1999 and District Governor 1999 - 2000. He is currently serving his first term as Cabinet Treasurer.

At Club Level, Lion Bill has been awarded many President Appreciation Awards and at least 21 100% Secretary Awards as well as two Treasurer's Awards. At District Level he has three Zone Chairman, Deputy District Governor and many District Chairman Awards as well as two District Governor Appreciation Awards and three Star Awards. District 201N1 also nominated Lion Bill as a Life Member of the NSW ACT Save Sight Foundation. At International Level Lion Bill is a 100% President, Key Member and holds a Membership Achievement Award. Quirindi Club made him a Melvin Jones Fellow in 1993 and a Life Member in 2003. The Lions District made Bill a William R Tresise Fellow in 2000.

Lion Bill has attended every District Convention since his return from 201N4 in 1988 having attended three in that District and three in N1 before transferring to Bourke. He has also attended 16 Multiple District Conventions and five International Conventions.

Lion Bill has completed Leadership Skills, Train the Trainer and the Advanced Trainer Certificate awarded by Multiple District 201. He also completed Certified Guiding Lion Training at the Hong Kong International Convention. He served as a member of the MD201 Leadership Development Subcommittee for three years prior to his election as District Governor.

Bill loves fishing and lawn bowls. He says he doesn't get enough of the former due to commitments with Lions and Bowls. In Lawn Bowls he is a National Bowls Umpire (Level 2) and is currently Chairman of Umpires in the Manning District Bowling Association. He also trains and assesses new umpires and reaccredits local umpires every four years for the Royal New South Wales Bowling Association's Umpire Panel.

Bill is a member of a small family. Both his father and mother are deceased. His brother Stephen lives with his wife Sylvia in Seattle in the United States where he is Professor of Civil and Environmental Engineering in the University of Washington.



## CHILDRENS CANCER RESEARCH

Vince Haire

After accidents, cancer is the common cause of death of children in Australia. 500 children are diagnosed each year and the best news is that 7 out of 10 will survive. Research is committed to improving this survival rate even further.

Lions so far have donated \$3.5 million to the Childrens Cancer Institute of Aust over the last nine years.

To continue this wonderful support I urge all clubs to identify and support children with cancer in their town or district directly as well as through the Appeal.

I think the two best ways to support the Appeal are

1. To participate in the Worlds Biggest BBQ and
2. To nominate someone for a Neil Williams Award, which is excellent value at \$250 each.