



MEDIA RELEASE

May 11, 2007

Green Lions and an Ark?

Lions Australia will be tackling environmental issues at their Sydney Convention, in Darling Harbour this year.

Lions Clubs around Australia have been supporting Planet Ark's National Tree Day for over eight years by coordinating tree planting sites and organising teams of volunteers around Australia.

"It's time we made it official" said Oatley Lions Club member, Bryan Pirie, who will be moving a motion to adopt National Tree Day as a Lions project at the Lions Sydney Convention, Darling Harbour.

Lions have a strong record in greening communities over their 60 year history in Australia.

National Executive Officer Rob Oerlemans explains:

"Think about your local Lions Park – it has that name for a reason. Lions clubs throughout the country have built local community infrastructure like parks and monuments. Lions clubs support better, more liveable communities – it about being involved in making your community a better place to be."

Lions clubs democracy means that major projects are decided through debate at their annual Convention. Lion's successful projects like Lions Cakes, Lion Mints, medical research and cancer prevention projects are all decided this way.

For Planet Ark, the support of Lions Australia for National Tree Day will be tremendously positive allowing for the further development of the campaign into local communities.

Planet Ark Founder and Chairman Mr Jon Dee, himself a Lion, said he hopes the Convention will agree to take on the project."

"Lions have great credibility within Australia but it needs to speak about the environment. This is a modern, important issue with great relevance to younger people who we need to take our organisation forward for the next 60 years.

The motion to adopt National Tree Day as a Lions project will be debated at the Sydney Convention and Exhibition Centre, on Friday morning, 18 May 2007.

Release date: 11 May 2007

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About Lions Australia

Lions Clubs International is the world's largest service organisation with 1.5 million members in 45,000 clubs in 200 countries and geographical locations. Lions Australia is one of Australia's largest service organisations with almost 28,000 members and 1,400 clubs across Australia. Lions Australia raises over \$20 million per annum to assist in community and health projects, and funding for Lions foundations and programs.