



# LIONS CLUB OF MANDURAH Inc



40th ANNIVERSARY  
1971 - 2011

# The Beginning 1970

The history of the Club starts in 1970 when Extension Chairman for regions 1,2 & 3 Ross La Spina from the Lions Club of North Perth, under DG Mackenzie Mitchell, canvassed prospective members in Mandurah through the Lions Club of Rockingham/Safety Bay, assisted by Zone Chairman Frank Claridge. A formation dinner was held on May 10th, 1971 with the official Charter being granted on the 7th of June, 1971 with the following members: Roy Bennett, Harvey Booth, Ray Buchanan, Bruce Creswell, Ambrose Depiazzi, Ken Donohoe, Dino Guerononi, Denis Guilfoyle, Gary McCarthy, Kevin McKay, Ron Martin, Joe Matison, Brian Marshall, Alan Mell, Derrick Taylor, Harry Perry, Roy Plumridge, Geoff Sharpe, Bill Smith, George Trewenack and Peter Wooltorton.

The Charter Dinner was held on September 24th with District Governor Terry Price in attendance with Extension Chairman Ross.

Membership grew steadily and stabilised with numbers in the 40s. As the Club developed it saw Mandurah and watched as Mandurah develop to become the fastest growing shire in Australia to be a town in 1988 and a city in 1991. The sponsorship of the only two schools in the 70s has grown to twenty six recently.



Following the 1971/2 President Ken Donohoe came Joe Mattison (dec.), Brian Marshall, Ambrose Depiazzi, John Clatworthy, Graham Taylor, and David Bullard Ken Donohoe closed the decade with a second presidency. The 1970s were exciting times as the new members got to know each other better when

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*Council Chairman Ambrose Depiazzi meets  
Governor General Sir Zelman Cowan*

they met to formulate foundation policies and explored inaugural projects.

The Club had an immediate impact and gained recognition and acclaim for the first major eye screening for glaucoma in adults and amblyopia in children.

Such was the impact, Club Members (usually Past Presidents) came to be noticed and invited to hold positions on District Cabinets.

After being involved in the demolition of the Mewburn Flats in Sholl Street it door knocked every home in the region to fill a petition which it collated to present to the Minister for Health and which resulted in the establishment of the Mandurah Medical Centre in Ormsby Terrace. In a very short time the Club was perceived as an important addition to the local community.

Numerous smaller projects followed, including the precarious shifting of a donated house from Halls Head across the old bridge to a new site in Park Road which was leased to the Club from the Shire at a peppercorn rent. Park Road was then but a track but proved an ideal site for the collection of "big browns" as they made their way to the rubbish tip. Weekly summer

collections exceeded 1000 dozen and proved a lucrative fund raiser organised by John Clatworthy. Glass collection and block improvements were undertaken by Terry Alexander, joined later by Paddy Merritt, Bill Cooper and Ray Osborne. The old house was gradually renovated to become a regular committee meeting place. One project which has endured is the Christmas present deliveries which is looked on with great anticipation from local families.

There are two schools in Mandurah for which the Club sponsored book prizes each year.

Social functions were frequent and the cricket match against the local Rotary Club was a very popular family event with the *Rose Bowl* a much coveted trophy.

Secretaries and treasurers included Bob Archer, John and Denis Guilfoyle, Richard Ingle, Ralph Pitt, Greg Bone, Lance Woodhead; also PCC Ambrose Depiazzi and Graham Taylor.

Unfortunately, much of the history of the '70s has not been recorded due to the loss of the official minutes from that decade.

## Mewburn Flats Demolition

Shortly after the club was chartered, we realised that to operate effectively within the community we needed to have funds within our activities account. We had already started to field requests for funds for many very worthwhile projects but were hamstrung without funds.

Very soon, one of our members recognised a tender that had been called for by the Shire of Mandurah to demolish buildings known as Mewburn Flats in Smart Street. These flats were of timber iron and asbestos and were situated on the property where the current Mewburn Centre and car park exits.

The club had little experience either collectively or individually in demolition but a figure was arrived at (or more correctly, plucked out of the air), the tender was lodged and in due course won.

Apart from a good contingent of able bodied men (we were all 40 years younger then) we did not have a lot

of the resources needed. Having been granted the tender, we convinced the Shire to "lend" us some trucks and front end loaders to do the job (for which they were paying us!) at no cost.

The appointed day (Saturday) duly arrived and with most of the members, Shire equipment and Shire operators whom we had conned to help also, we were away. Several small buildings were quickly dealt with and then the largest building remained. Someone suggested that if we got several wire ropes and chains around it we could give it a tug by a couple of bobcats and it would collapse. This was duly done and down she came!!

Unfortunately we forgot to tell the bobcat drivers to wait for a few minutes until the two people on the roof got down!! Needless to say they surfed the iron roof to the ground and luckily walked away unharmed in a cloud of dust from the old timber and asbestos. Forty

years later we would have not got away with this. Thank God the Statute of Limitations has now made us immune from problems. Incidentally the beams within the room were made of Canadian Cedar, their salvage adding to our coffers when we had a salvage sale on site several weeks later. I think we may have even made money out of the sale of some of the asbestos sheets that were not too badly damaged. Sale of 2<sup>nd</sup> hand asbestos!! – How times have changed!! **Ambrose Depiazzi**



*Past Charter President Ken Donohoe enjoying retirement*



## **PCC Ambrose Depiazzi**

- Charter member of Mandurah Club with 39 years service
- Numerous terms on Club Board incl. two terms as President
- Numerous terms on District Cabinet

- After his term as DG he was elected MD Council Chairman
- Has served as Director of a number of WA Lions Bodies, including: –  
Miss Personality Quest  
Lions Eye Institute  
Lions Hering Foundation (Previously Lions Help to Hear Foundation)  
Lions Save Sight Foundation
- Recipient of James D Richardson Award
- Melvin Jones Fellow
- Of particular relevance today is that Ambrose was the inaugural Chairman of our Foundation, and served in that capacity for five years.

## **The 1980s**

The 1980s saw the induction of the following presidents: Vern Barnes, Ron Martin (dec.), Greg Bone, Lance Woodhead, Peter Lamb, Denis Breen, John Osborne, Richard Ingle, Alex Hunter and Phil Murray (dec.). Secretary and treasurer support came from John Ranford, John Fowler, Allan Thomas (dec.), Dacre Allen, John Fennell (dec.), Denis Coombe, Laurie Ellery, Ron Abbott (dec.), Kevin McCann and David Knight; also Peter Lamb, Denis Breen and Richard Ingle.

Following his year as District Governor Ambrose Depiazzi was elected as Council Chairman aged only 35 years.

Besides the continuing of established projects, the 80s had many highlights which included the further development of Youth Exchange under the guidance of Graham Taylor, the infamous cattle project under Ron Martin, the

1985 Convention under Graham Taylor and Greg Cole, the enormous Mandurah Pentathlon under visionary John Guilfoyle and Lance Woodhead, the establishment of TheYOTY project under Ross Bentley and the Miss Personality project with Ron Draper. Social events were frequent and well attended

The development of the Lions Hall invites special mention.

By 1982 the local shire was experiencing problems supplying infrastructure to service the rapidly growing population, it offered the Club a loan of \$10,000 to create a meeting hall with a wet area and toilet block for arts groups. The old house which had been gradually gutted was transformed into the present Lions Service Centre complete with kitchen and was opened with due ceremony in 1984. Many members played a part in the construction under the

watchful eye of Greg Bone.

Thus, the Mandurah Club became one of a very small number to have its own club rooms

in which to enjoy dinner and committee meetings. By now Mandurah had further developed and became the fastest growing Shire in Australia to be a town in 1988.

## The 1990s

The 1990s enjoyed the presidency of John Fennell (dec.)(twice), PDG Wally Barrett (twice), David Knight, Peter Lloyd, Denis Breen, Ron Draper, Brian Lawler (dec.), PDG Harry Snell (dec.) and Peter Lamb who were supported by secretaries and treasurers John Garner, Norm Creed (dec.), Max Kirwan, Mal Johnson, John Fowler, Alan Golding (dec.), Ron Abbott (dec.) Barry Sutton, John Fennell (dec.) and David Knight.

The '90s was a period of consolidation which witnessed changes in working hours, of local demographics and of the social structure of the community which impacted on service and other volunteer clubs in general. In 1991 - Mandurah became a City. During this time there was also a significant increase in requests received from government agencies for assistance to individuals which were always responded to positively. The Club also made one of its three extensions with the formation of the Lions Club of Mandurah Waters where Ross Bentley was the Guiding Lion.



Alan George 'Billy' Bowler with one of his many awards.

### City loses showman

MANDURAH'S own long-time showman Alan George 'Billy' Bowler has died after a long illness.

The former owner of King Carnival and its landmark ferris wheel provided entertainment for thousands of residents and visitors for more than 30 years.

Mr Bowler was awarded Mandurah Citizen of the Year in 1998 among several major awards over the years and was also recognised late last year when the skate board park on the western foreshore was named in his honour.

Acting Mayor David Templeman paid tribute to Mr Bowler at this week's council meeting and said his generosity to many organisations and fundraising ventures were many and almost always anonymous.

"We are very proud of his achievements and it is a very sad occasion for the city," he said.

The funeral service was held yesterday at Karrakatta.

Donations may be sent to the Silver Chain.

Bill Bowler, a Lion *par excellence* and the "epitome of generosity and compassion".  
Melvin Jones Fellow 1990.

1995 Family & Children's Services award  
For Dedicated Service to the Community.

1998 National Australia Day Council Award  
Mandurah's Citizen of the Year

The Club was delighted to induct Helen Lamb and Kerry Breen in 1996, the first women members. Brian Lawler dedicated his time to an expansion of the Cans Collection project, which, after experiencing strong growth, is now in decline. Brian was also in charge of telephone book distribution.

The Children of Courage project, instigated largely by Phil Murray, made a resurgence under the direction of Ray Blyth and Father Christmas deliveries continued to thrill and expand as did the hire of Xmas suits under the control of Mary Cooper.

The sale of Christmas Cakes continued to be a high revenue raiser. Numerous members have been in charge with long terms being put in by John Fenn and, later, Thelma Murphy.

The decade closed sadly with the loss of two stalwarts in Ross Bentley and Bill Bowler. Ross was a long standing and hard working member with high ethical standards and instigator of the YOTY project of which he remained in charge from its inception. His image remains on the YOTY Award plaque in the Club rooms.

Bill Bowler was one of Mandurah's great Lions. Billy, as he was called, was a generous and compassionate gentleman who could ridicule humbug and who gave freely of his time and money, mostly in a quiet and unobtrusive way. He helped so many people in Mandurah, especially the young and disabled from remote areas who always had free access and rides at his *King Carnival* site. His contribution to Mandurah and Lionism saw him receive a Melvin Jones Fellowship in 1990, an award from the Family & Children's Services in 1995 "For Dedicated Service to the Community" and in 1998 Mandurah's Citizen of the Year from the National Australia Day Council. The Mandurah Skateboard Park preserves his name in perpetuity.

# The 2000s

The final decade saw the election of presidents John Fenn, Graham Bateman, Ray Blyth, Colin Hartley, John Osborne (twice), PCC Ambrose Depiazzi, David Knight (twice), PDG Wally Barrett, Thelma Murphy and Brian Prendergast.

Secretaries and treasurers included Ron Abbott (dec.), First VDG Peter Lamb, Lance Woodhead and Gail Dennert; also Thelma Murphy, Colin Hartley, John Osborne and PCC Ambrose Depiazzi. Thelma Murphy, elected in 2008, was the Club's first woman president.

The years 2000 to 2010 witnessed the introduction of new and innovative programs.

2003 saw the Certification of the Mandurah Leos Club, sourced mainly from students at a local high school. It immediately embarked on the Youth On Health Drama Festival which had been initiated in the 1990s by high school nurse, Anne Leaver, who later joined Lions.

First VDG Peter Lamb was to become a key player in Leos on the national stage and Charter Member Jessica Thompson gained fame with the winning of the coveted Leo of the Year, a first for WA in 2010, and also the International Leo-of-the-Year.



*Leo Charter  
Member Jessica  
Thompson*

John Walker, with special assistance from Kerry Breen and Bob Aurisch, ran a very successful ShowBags project in country agricultural show for a number of years until costs and increased competition forced its closure.

The Club delved into IT waters with the development of its website by Rob Garratt.

The Mandurah Offshore Fishing and Sailing Club was joined in partnership to create the Youth Maritime Project (Hooked on Fishing) with notable input from Keith Turner, Brian Lawler and Des McLean.

Assets grew with the acquisition of a second bBBQ trailer and paper storage trailer in a new shed all from the Lions Club of Mandurah Waters thanks to Peter Lamb's negotiating skills.

The Australia Day Breakfast, initially run with Mandurah Waters until its demise, became a major project well received by the City and its residents. This was run on the back of the sausage sizzle program which had expanded under the leadership of Len Murphy who had the trailers refurbished by a grant from ALCOA. Sausage sizzles are now the Club's key fundraiser. Breakfasts for the Relay for Life has become a huge project over the past two years under the organisation of Gordon Nunn

PDG Wally Barrett continued with the successful Walk for Sight activity.

We also saw the permanent sponsorship of a special blind child, Bryce Bentu.

The Club Rooms were also upgraded with the installation of air conditioning.

We were saddened by the loss of Past President Phil Murray and two PDGs in Harry Snell and Joe Mason.

The legendary Joe Mason's contribution to Lions was incalculable as outlined in his awards:

Melvin Jones Fellow, Supreme Extension Award, two International Presidents' Awards, Lions Hall of Fame, District Governor 20W1 (1983/4), Life Membership, James D Richardson Award, Charter Member City of Perth 1962 and Founder of the modern day Children of Courage Awards.

2010 saw the loss of another stalwart in Bill Cooper. Bill spent many years with the Mints project, Father Christmas deliveries and looking after the maintenance of the Block. His years behind the Club's bar resulted in it being named "The Bill Cooper Bar" in his memory. Bill's wife, Mary, spent many years with the

deliveries, was Co-ordinator for Father Xmas suit hire and one of the few non members to receive a Melvin Jones Fellowship.

This year continues to unfold with a major project in the forthcoming Convention, with a very active committee led by Graham Bateman.

The constant link in the history of the Club has been PDG and Past Council Chairman Ambrose Depiazzi who, on a national level in 2010, was elevated into the Lions Hall of Fame, just recognition for his immense input into the Club and into Australian Lionism. The Club is proud of his achievements and happy to bask in the light of his glory.

## The 2010 - 2011 Board of Directors



*Left to Right: John Osborne (President), Clive Cartledge (Lion Tamer), Terry Collinson (Membership), Kerry Breen (Director Year 1), Kevin Dean (Director Year 1), Jessica Thompson (Tail Twister), Robert Garratt (Director Year 2), Thelma Murphy (Director Year 2), Brian Prendergast (1st Vice President), Graham Bateman (2nd Year Vice President), Terina Tinson (3rd Vice President), Colin Hartley (Treasurer), Lance Woodead (Secretary)*

## What the future Holds for the Club

The Mandurah Lions Club has attracted three PDGs into its fold, Harry Snell, Joe Mason and PCC Ian Kelly, as well as spawning two District Governors of its own in Ambrose Depiazzi and Wally Barrett and having another, Peter Lamb, in its womb.

Hundreds of thousand dollars have been

donated to needy families and individuals, to children and adults with disabilities, to the hospital, to supportive groups, to schools and to disaster relief.

In retrospect, the Club must be seen as having enjoyed a very successful history, although at

different times it could be seen as less than assiduous in the recording and maintaining of its records.

Much of the content of this booklet has come from Graham Taylor, Ken Donohoe, Ambrose Depiazzi and Peter Lamb whose scrap books and memories have been invaluable.

Most of those mentioned in this thumbnail sketch have been office holders, the names of whom have been relatively easy to “hang on a peg”, but there have been many hundreds who have made enormous contributions and by including some and not mentioning others can seem insensitive and unappreciated. This certainly is not the case and a magnificent history of the club taking several thousands of pages could be compiled should every member be researched and documented. Apologies must go to this seemingly unheralded group.

The Club now has a solid and dedicated membership on which to build its future.

The Club numbers of 50+ make it one of the largest Clubs in WA.

Unfortunately the development of the City threatens to engulf the Service Centre and a sword now hangs over the site which is restricted to limited leases and facing the prospect of an eviction order and only time linked with the perspicacity of the City of Mandurah and generosity of the ALF and Lotteries Commission will determine the existence of a future headquarters for the Lions Club of Mandurah.



1983



*Ken Donohoe and President Greg Bone in 1984.*



Graham Taylor receiving his Melvin Jones Fellowship from PCC Ambrose Depiazzi.

# Bridge to Bridge

## Bike-out and Quiz Night

The Lions Club of Mandurah became involved in helping to raise funds for Spinalcure (formerly Australian Spinal Research Trust) in 1999 and 2000 when we assisted the Zonta International Peel Region Club with their Bridge to Bridge Bike-out.

First prize in the raffle was \$2000 cash, second prize was \$1000 and third prize being a week's accommodation at the Donnelly River Holiday Resort.

Selling raffle tickets prior to the event was an arduous task for committee members. Due to a huge effort from a few, with Colin Hartley being the most successful salesperson, a substantial number of tickets were sold before the big day. On the day of the event, with the persuasive coaxing of the most able and professional Master of Ceremonies, David Templeman MLA, those sales were somewhat enhanced.

The programme for the Bikeout included bicycle rides over distances of 5, 12 and 30 kilometres with entrants paying a small fee to participate. The aim was to encourage people to participate for the exercise without the competition of a race. In 2002, a 5 kilometre walk was also included for those who preferred nature's own transport system.

Prizes included:

- A Corporate Cup for the corporate group with the most entries in the ride (donated by Cape Bouvard Investments)
- Riders prize valued at \$500 (donated by Cycles Mandurah)

Tickets were pre-sold at \$25.00 per head which included the quiz and a two course meal prepared by Lion Len Murphy with the assistance of a number of Lions partners and lady members. Len had also prepared the quiz questions.

Tickets were collected and raffle tickets sold at the door by Kerry Breen, Kath McLeod and Colin Hartley.

The Master of Ceremonies was Lion Lance Woodhead while Len acted as quiz master. (A very busy man for this event). Len was assisted by Coral Woodhead and Bill Cooper who marked the answers and displayed the results on a white-board.

A licensed bar was operated by Thelma Murphy with the assistance of Ron Draper and Bill Cooper.

In the role of auctioneer, Colin Hartley proved that he was able to extract a dollar even in a tough market.

The major items for auction included two signed and framed Fremantle Dockers jumpers, a framed Dockers training jumper, an Eagles framed training jumper and a baby's change table donated by John Osborne.

Chairman Graham Bateman moved between all areas providing assistance where necessary.

Len Murphy joined the committee for the organisation of subsequent quiz nights, replacing Kath McLeod who was bitten by the travel bug.

The 2005 event included a women's lingerie parade with models and items organised by Thelma, Ray Blyth took over the white-board and assisted Thelma and Ron Draper with running the bar.

Ann Blyth and Ron Draper assisted Len with delivery of the meals on the night.

Further quiz nights were organised with the same format, minus the lingerie parade, by the same committee during 2006 and 2007

The last of the annual quiz nights to raise funds for Spinalcure Australia was held at the Masonic Hall in Furnissdale Road, Barragup on Saturday, November 15, 2008.

This was another successful evening which saw the culmination of the work put in by the organising committee result in raising a little under \$3500.

The Board saw fit to make up the shortfall and a cheque was presented to Professor Giles Plant during a visit to Reds Spinal Cord Research Laboratory at the University of Western Australia.

A popular first prize for the winning table at these quiz nights was a bus tour of the Swan Valley, donated by Anne and Wally Barrett.

The remaining seats on the bus were filled by fare paying Lions and guests who always enjoyed the trip.

There were also prizes for 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and last place-getters. The combined efforts of the original Zonta project and the ensuing Mandurah Lions project have now raised in excess of \$50,000 for the Spinalcure research programme. **Lion Graham Bateman.**

## CLUB PROJECT:

# Australia Day Breakfast

The ADB has been a tradition in Mandurah for around two decades and whilst our club has organised this event for the last four years, this was not always the case.

The event was originally organised by radio station 6mm. With a substantial amount of sponsorship from local businesses there was no charge for the breakfast.

The Lions Club of Mandurah Waters became one of the major players in assisting the radio station with organising the event.

In 1995 with the growth in numbers attending and more and more time being needed to put the Australia Day Breakfast together, the radio station asked the Mandurah Waters club to take over.

In those days, this meant not only arranging everything to provide a full breakfast including cereal, fruit juices, tea, coffee and a cooked breakfast similar to the one we now provide, but also included organising the day's flag raising and entertainment.

The breakfast was not seen as a fund raising project but when an element of "snatch and grab" for the free food and drink became evident amongst some members of



the public, the Mandurah Waters club imposed a nominal fee. This resulted in an outcry from those who had created the situation but the reasons were publicised and accepted by all fair minded members of the community.

In the time that Mandurah Waters managed the project, the Lions Club of Mandurah supplied a substantial number of members and partners to assist on Australia Day each year.

The venue in the early years was at the old Peninsula Hotel with the citizenship ceremonies conducted in the shade of the large Moreton Bay Fig that has remained long after the demolition of the old hotel.

With the move from the old Peninsula site to the eastern foreshore, the City of Mandurah accepted responsibility for providing the necessary infrastructure.

At that time, David Templeman was a member of the Mandurah Waters Club and was the natural choice for the task which he still performs at the Australia Day celebrations.

With time, the number of businesses sponsoring the project dropped away and while some still provide





discounts for foodstuffs, the need to charge a little more for the breakfast increased.

The City of Mandurah has become the major organising body for the day's programme leaving the Lions to concentrate on providing the breakfast, a raffle to help defray costs and organise the "youngest and oldest" attendee prizes which are now traditionally funded by a local Member of Parliament (currently the Deputy Leader of the Government of WA, Dr Kim Hames).



With the demise of the Lions Club of Mandurah Waters, the City of Mandurah asked the Lions Club of Mandurah to manage the ADB, which we have done since the 2008 event. Each year we have learned a little more about ways to improve our involvement and no doubt this will continue.



As part of the Australia Day celebrations, the breakfast has become entrenched as a premier event on the City of Mandurah calendar.

It certainly provides great exposure for our club and provides an opportunity to enhance our relationship with local government.

### **Graham Bateman (ADB Chairman 2011)**



# Leo Club of Mandurah

The group that was to become the Leos Club of Mandurah was up and running in 2000 but the club officially chartered on the 4<sup>th</sup> May 2002. When the club chartered they had a big project already happening. YOHFEST or Youth on Health Festival is a festival of drama and arts. Students from schools all over WA produce plays and dances promoting awareness of a health issue. Over time it became evident that YOHFEST was too big for Leos to do as well as other community work and so in 2005 it was decided that the two would part ways. The Leos Club lost members because of this but that did not stop the club from being involved in many activities and projects. Over the years the club has done Devilish Dares, ice-cream eating competitions, quiz nights, dinner dances, Clean Up Australia Day, National Tree Day tree planting, Christmas presents for the K'mart Christmas tree, halloween dinner, annual santa deliveries and many sausage sizzles with the Lions Club.

Apart from all the projects the club has done the other big event we have been involved in is the annual Leo of the Year Quest. The club has been participating in this quest since 2003. From our



club the members who have represented Western Australia in the National finals have been Terina Tinson (2003, 2004 and 2005), Amanda Rickman (2006 and 2007) and Jessica Thompson (2008 and 2009). In 2009 Jessica was the first Leo from Western Australia to take out the national final and later on that year Jessica was also awarded with International Leo of the Year.

One of the clubs largest projects was the Spring Fling which raised \$1080 dollars that we donated to help the children in Mombasa. Being a Leo has been a great experience for all involved in the club and we have achieved much to help the community over the last nine years.

**Lion Jessica Thompson**

## CLUB PROJECT:

# Father Christmas Deliveries

The Lions club of Mandurah has been running the Christmas Deliveries project for over 30 years. This project originated in the late 1970's. In its early years the ladies auxiliary would share the load of taking care of the Santa suits but for the last twenty years that job has been done by Mary and Billy Cooper. They took the project on and have run it completely up until last year when Billy passed away. Every Christmas Eve the clubs men get dressed up as santa and with the help of a trusty driver and santa's elves they deliver

presents to the children of Mandurah and surrounds. The family pays a donation to the club and supplies the presents in order to have santa visit their house. After the Santa's have done their rounds they meet back at the clubrooms for some Christmas cheer. This project is one of the most special in the way that you get to see the looks on the children's faces when Santa comes to visit and this is priceless. Each year the money raised is donated to children's charities such as Camp Quality and other worthy causes.

**Lion Jessica Thompson**



Getting dressed are Left Top,  
1st Vice District Governor Peter Lamb  
and Zone Chairman Brian Prendergast

## CLUB PROJECT:

# Children of Courage

The Mandurah Lions Club have been involved with the Children of Courage awards for many years.

Sadly with the passing of our older members, such as John Fennel, Phil Murray and others it has been difficult to obtain a huge amount of information.

All of the children sponsored by this Club have different special needs, and we make it known to the parents that once the event is over, they are not forgotten. If any assistance is required at a later time we will always do what we can for them, and that is only a letter to Lions and the members will consider their request.

I have been able to obtain the District Chairmen for the event from 1992 however asking them to search for details would now be a huge task.

The following have been sponsored by this Club since 2005.

Ayesha Patterson, Jeremy Hay, Bryce Bentu, Lauren Quin, Stella Quin, Kate Mc Gougan, Jordan Mc Leod, Jemma Shea, Shauna Key, Dylan Williams, Luca Daniels, Cameron Fayne, Taylor Green, Braydon Moody, Mitchell Sweeney, Hayley Powell, Tia Semi and Brendan Hawkins.

An average of three per year shows our commitment to young people in the district.

Bryce Bentu attended a dinner meeting with his mother, and what a joy to see him. Bryce is totally blind with other disabilities but to see him get around WOW!!! His sense of obstacles around him is achieved by clicking his tongue and receiving echo's back. How amazing.

Two members of the Club are in contact with Bryce and his mum to see if there are any requirements regarding teaching materials or other needs to make life just that easier for them.

The event has been held at the Burswood, St Mary's School in Karrinyup with this year's event at the Pan Pacific hotel in Perth.

I would like to say to those who have never been part of the event, DO IT. It is a great experience to witness.

**Lion Ray Blyth**

## AWARD WINNERS FOR 2011



Top Left: Brendan Hawkins,  
Top Right: Hayley Powell, Bottom Left: Tia Semi and  
Bottom Right: Mitchell Sweeney

## JEMMA SHEA



Jemma Shea who has cerebral palsy had requested a bicycle with specially adapted trainer wheels as her two wishes were, to be able to ride a bike to the local shop about 300 metres away by herself, and also learning to surf. She has her bike with mum stating with a few falls and bruises, has achieved one goal and the smile she gives says it all. Hopefully there will be an article soon regarding Jemma in the next West Lion.

## CLUB PROJECT:

# School Book Awards

This Club have been involved with youth projects for many years with School Book Awards and Youth Of The Year being an annual event for many years. Bob Archer was the co-ordinator for both of these projects.

At this time there were possibly three primary schools and one high school in Mandurah, however with the sudden growth of the area how things changed. With new schools both public and private developing, the project became very involved.

Of course the area we covered became larger requiring quite a few members to do presentations at the annual graduation ceremonies. Eventually our area covered from Singleton to Dawesville. At one time we had 29 schools to contact and at that time we were

donating perhaps \$40. or \$50. to each school. Totalled up over the years our contribution has been quite significant.

With the formation of the Falcon Lions Club, a boundary was selected which dropped the number of schools this club had been involved with. This year we had only 18 to attend. Most schools request a presenter while some would rather just acknowledge the Club.

Some other co-ordinators also have been John Fennell, Phil Murray, Harry Snell, Colin Hartley, Lance Woodhead, John Osborne and Ray Blyth.

When attending the same school over the years it is great to catch up with friendships previously made with members of other service groups with the same purpose as Lions. **Lion Ray Blyth**

## Running Pink Project

We first heard of Deb de Williams unbelievable run around Australia in early 2010. The club voted to support Deb in her quest to raise money for Breast Cancer, we set out a program to be her Mandurah contact and decided to raise funds by holding a dinner in her honour at our Clubrooms .

We also arranged for the Mayor of Mandurah to be present to welcome Deb to Mandurah and to present her with a cheque on behalf of the City. The dinner was a roaring success with over \$1000 being raised by way of tickets to dinner and an auction on the night, of memorabilia. The meal was cooked by Robin our cook who does all our meeting dinners and she donated her time to the cause. Deb de Williams is an exceptional woman who set her self a target to run around Australia in 365 days averaging 50 Kilometres a day, which relates to 17,021 kilometres, 25 million steps. A truly remarkable feat for a lady who is a victim of Breast Cancer herself .

The club then contacted all the Lions Clubs up the coast to Darwin after Deb left to see if they could arrange functions for her in each of their towns .

Lion Brian Prendergast (Project Coordinator)  
Photos taken by Lion Dianne Mew



*Deb de Williams, Lion Kerry Breen and  
Lion Brian Prendergast*



## CLUB PROJECT:

# Christmas Cakes

When I joined Lions John Fenn had been the Cake Chairman for about six years. As an old friend he “persuaded me” to take-over from him. Back then the job involved the whole deal. From ordering, storing the cakes in my garage and distributing them to various outlets to sell on our behalf.

John gave me a list and we grew it from there. It was difficult to get Lions members to sell cakes and I used to invite them to meet me in the car park at the end of the meeting to take a carton or two from my vehicle. I had some hard workers who would regularly call round home for more supplies and to settle up. They included Keith Miller, Phil Murray, John Rowell, John Walker and Bill Cooper.

As the years went by things became harder for me to carry on as I had knee and heart problems. I engaged the help of Kerry Breen to carry cartons for me.

During this period we achieved a few awards for the highest sellers in W2, including a couple of \$500 cheques.

After six or seven years I “persuaded” a new member Edgar Smith to take-over. He did an excellent job but he resigned from Lions at the

end of the year. I don't know if the cakes were to blame !!

As storage was a problem at homes it was arranged to store the cakes at Rob Garrett's business premises. This worked well for a couple of years, and as Breeny was working there the bookkeeping was done on Rob's computer. Storage again became a problem and we utilised the club's own storage facilities at the block (complete with large doses of Ratsack as a deterrent to any friendly rodents).

Len Murphy became the “Cake King” for a few years and he still services many outlets.

Graham Bateman followed as Cake Chairman and he also assisted Bob Halford and PCC Ian Kelly as overseers last year when Len and Graham were the biggest sellers for the year.

For several years we have been fortunate to have a week at Centro which has topped off the seasons sales

All in all our cakes are very popular and I hope we will continue to service Mandurah with them.

**Lion Thelma Murphy.**



Ray ‘Óssie’ Osborne and Harald Lorek on duty at the Centro Shopping Centre in December 2010

# Cattle Rustling (otherwise known as the) Cattle Project

(Lions names have been omitted to protect the innocent!)

On the 17<sup>th</sup> December 1980, a Perth magistrate P.V. Smith convicted and confiscated a herd of 130 cattle from a Byford cattle rancher, under the cruelty to animals act, and gave the legal right to the RSPCA to dispose of said cattle to one Ronald (Ron) Martin, the then President of the Lions Club of Mandurah. Ron, who has since passed away, duly agisted the cattle on a 700 acre property, now known as Secret Harbour in return for constructing fire breaks on the south side of Anstey Road in the Shire of Rockingham.

Things were going swimmingly until a group of firebrand cattle cockies from Byford, decided their fellow farmer had been duded by the Courts, the RSPCA and the Lions and set about freeing the said cattle, by cutting fences bordering Mandurah Road, and releasing them onto what even then, was a fairly busy road, in the dead of night.

Now bearing in mind neither yours truly or any other Mandurah Lions members save for Ron Martin had any experience with cattle, we were rounded up out of bed by the police and shire rangers to remove these bovines from the only thoroughfare between Rockingham and Mandurah. It was bad enough on that first night (leaving my two young sons in bed without a chaperone) but the Byford gang struck repeatedly over the coming months causing all major disruptions on Mandurah Road and major sleep deprivation for all concerned.

Despite mounting night watches to try and catch the Byford conspirators, we were never able to mount our own lynching mob to retaliate against these dastardly deeds. Meanwhile the cattle were growing and fattening as planned, as we meant to make a killing (pardon the pun) on the sale of these sturdy beasts to Harvey Meats. Unfortunately they (the cattle) were also becoming feral, due to a lack of handling or contact with humans. So when the day duly arrived, to corral these fine beasts for market, they all went missing

and literally vanished into thin air, or at least the scrub bulls did and took with them, their heifer girlfriends! We managed to corral the dumb ones with much hilarity for those concerned, who were told to stand in front of a charging herd and politely tell them to please run into hastily constructed yards. We then had to get them out of the temporary yards into stock trucks using cattle prodders – more fun, especially at night with long-horned cattle.

The scrub bulls with the harem heifers were almost impossible to catch because at first sight of us, the fearless hunters, they would drop to the ground and become invisible to the eye of untrained cattle rustlers – a tag we inherited from the Byford mob! I use the term “hunters” advisedly because that’s exactly what we became, in the fullness of time, because time was running out and the developers – The Secret Harbour Group- wanted their land back.

The solution dreamed up by Cattle Boss Ron was to shoot the cattle, which he proceeded to do (plus Helen’s dog) and sell them as animal food, because they hadn’t been slaughtered in an appropriate manner. The only catch being they then, had to have the heads and hooves removed prior to being shipped (sorry trucked) off to market for dog food. When Ron ruined two good chainsaws for obvious reasons, we reverted to the good old-fashioned axe, and finally got the job done, not before I overcame my phobia of blood and guts.

When you next visit the Lions Den (known as the Lions Service Club Centre) cast your eye up above the “Billy Cooper bar” and see if you can spot a set of mounted cattle horns – the only lasting memorial of the infamous cattle rustling project, which at the time caused a storm in W2, because we allegedly took a project from another Lions area!! The money raised was significant at the time and largely remains untouched and is earmarked for our proposed new Clubhouse – whenever that might be? **DGE Peter Lamb**

## CLUB PROJECT:

# Relay for Life



Photos from the 2010 Relay for Life big breakfast. Photo 1: Dave Knight and Graham George Bateman test drive brand new spatulas. Photo 2: Evelyn Kelly, Dianne Mew and the twins prepare the bread for the eggs. Photo 3: Ian Kelly is barking out instructions to Peter Lamb and Clive Cartledge trying the same game on Bobby Aurisch. Photo 4: Mary Cooper in the vegetable cutting room. Photo 5: Margaret Halford, Roz Osborne doing circle work on slices of bread. Photo 6: Secret mens business around the BBQ trailer.



Denis Breen and "friend" outside the Club. "friends" gave directions to the 1985 Convention and four were stolen very quickly. The "friend" was supposedly modelled on Kerry!!



Clare Lehman, from Sealake (hosted by Kerry and Denis Breen) and the girl on the right is 1987 Miss Personality entrant, Michelle Norwell. Please note the "Rose Bowl" in the background



## Best All-rounder Kyle takes home Leather Man tool kit

At the last graduation day of the Youth Maritime project Brian Prendergast (pictured left) presented Kyle Daniels with the "Best Allrounder" award.

The prize was a Leather Man tool kit.

The Club over the years presented awards at graduation days similar to Kyle's award at every course. The Youth Maritime project holds four courses a year.

## LIONS CLUBROOMS

### Behind the Scenes.....

The relocation of the building from Halls Head to Park Road was a major exercise. Firstly it required a permit from the Mandurah Shire Council. The application was opposed by the then Traffic Inspectors (In those days police did not handle traffic matters outside metropolitan areas) George Parish and George Prince. Their concerns were that we had, at best, six inches clearance on both sides as we went over the Mandurah Bridge and if it moved at all on Ron Martins' low loader (designed for moving bulldozers not buildings). The

coastal route between Bunbury and Perth would be closed. There was not a second bridge or bypass road in those days.

You guessed it!! Half way over the bridge the building moved on the jinker and we ground to a halt with George and George besides themselves. Several Kangaroo Jacks were located and it was eventually eased back into position on the jinker and the relocation was duly completed without further incident, apart from a near miss with overhead power lines on the post office corner in Pinjarra Road.

It is truly amazing how cars bank up when you close a main highway for 40 minutes!!! **Ambrose Depiazzi**

# Lions Club of Mandurah Inc Honour Roll

## Life Members:

PDG Wally Barrett, John Walker and PCC Ambrose Depiazzi.



**Melvin Jones Fellows:** PCC A. Depiazzi, J. Fenn, H. Snell, B. Bowler, PDG J. Mason, J. Fennell, P. Murray, J. Patterson, H. Lorek, G. Taylor, A. Barrett, R. Archer, R. Draper, V. Murray, PDG W. Barrett, 1st VDG P. Lamb, the Hon. K. Holmes, G. Madigan, R. Blyth, B. Prendergast, W. Cooper, M. Cooper, R. Osborne, L. Murphy, G. Bateman, L. Woodhead, PCC I Kelly, and E Kelly.

**Tom Cameron Award:** W Barrett and G Madigan.

**James.D.Richardson Honour Award:** A. Hunter, A. Thomas, K. Dean, J. Fenn, B. Lawler, R. Osborne, B. Cooper, R. Blyth, PCC A. Depiazzi, C. Hartley, 1st VDG P. Lamb, L. Woodhead, G. Bateman, R. Abbott, K. Turner, R. Garrett, J. Patterson, K. Breen, J. Osborne, David Knight, Denice Knight, M. Bateman, R. Draper, D. Ingle, G. Madigan, J. Walker, P. Drown, and PCC I Kelly



**William R Tresise Fellowship Award:**  
PCC I Kelly

**Lloyd Morgan Honoured Member (NZ):**  
PCC I Kelly





Top Left: B Prendergast, J Walker, G Madigan, D Ingle and R Drapper

Top Right: G Bateman and B Prendergast

Left: B Prendergast and T Collinson

Below: B Prendergast and L Woodhead



## TRIPLE JOY -

Lions International welcome three New Members with the introduction of Ivan and Kath Halligan (sponsor Thelma Murphy) and Gordon Nunn (sponsor Brian Prendergast). The Officiating Officer is PCC Ambrose Depiazzi

# District Convention Host 2011

## **THE CELEBRATION CONTINUES WITH THE 40<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL DISTRICT CONVENTION**

While our official 40<sup>th</sup> year celebrations will provide members past and present with the opportunity to reflect on events in the club's history, the Lions Club of Mandurah will continue the celebrations deep into 2011 when we host the 40<sup>th</sup> Annual District Convention. This convention is to be known as "The Holiday Coast Convention".

With our own Peter Lamb holding the position of District Governor during the 2011/2012 year our Club has much to celebrate.

Unfortunately, we could not get all the 40's to line up, but two out of three is not bad with Peter being a tad over 40 when he takes on the role.

The 40<sup>th</sup> District 201W2 Convention will be preceded by a Civic Reception for invited guests which will be hosted by the City of Mandurah in the lobby of the Mandurah Performing Arts Centre.

The Convention will be called to order by the Sergeant at Arms, Past Council Chairman Ian Kelly and will be officially opened by the Mayor, Paddi Creevey OAM, at the Ac-cent Centre on the evening of Friday, September 30, 2011. The Convention will close early afternoon on Sunday, October 2, 2011. The intervening period promises to be both enjoyable and productive for those Lions, Lions partners, Leos and guests attending.

The Opening Ceremony will involve some young migrant people in traditional dress acting as flag bearers and local choir "Voices in Harmony" providing musical backing.

The Flag Ceremony will be conducted by Past District Governor Tim Irvine.

Lion Tess Leedham will conduct the Remembrance Ceremony in memory of those Lions members and partners who have passed away during the preceding twelve months. Tess will be supported by the "Voices in Harmony"

A further highlight of the evening will be an address by Les Twentyman, a social worker who has a great deal of experience with the issues affecting homeless people in the city and suburbs of Melbourne.

The evening will be concluded with a supper prepared by the Ac-cent Centre chef, Arno who will be catering for all meals during the convention.

The Saturday morning programme will include reports from Cabinet members, nominations and election of new office bearers for District Foundations and Projects, a presentation by the Bull Creek Club as hosts for the 2012 District Convention and address by a speaker from "Outward Bound".

As the October 1, 2011 is the date of the AFL Grand Final and many of the Lions members are keen Australian Rules followers, the afternoon will be set aside to allow the viewing of this event. At previous conventions, business sessions held over the duration of the Grand Final have been poorly attended.

So our attitude has been "if you can't beat them, join them"

Two large screens which will be in place for the business sessions will be used to screen the football following lunch.

For those who are not interested in football, there will be plenty of alternative ways to spend the afternoon in our beautiful city.

A dinner/dance on Saturday evening “Remember the Shadows” will feature a band known as “The Shad Lads”, a group that not only plays a lot of music made famous by “Cliff Richard and the Shadows” but also music and vocals originally performed by a range of artists from that era as well as more recent material.

The MC for the evening will be none other than the multi-talented David Templeman MLA.

This entertainment will get under way following a three course sit-down meal accompanied by a bar which will provide table service. The bar staff and drinks wait staff will be provided by the Lions Club of Falcon.

Sunday morning will be back to business, dealing with any notices of motion, presentations by a further two guest speakers and acceptance speeches from the incoming Second Vice District Governor, First Vice District Governor and District Governor.

The business session will be concluded with a closing ceremony conducted by First Vice District Governor, Geoff Carberry.

A lunch will be provided for those who wish to partake prior to heading off home.

**Graham Bateman**

**Chairman**

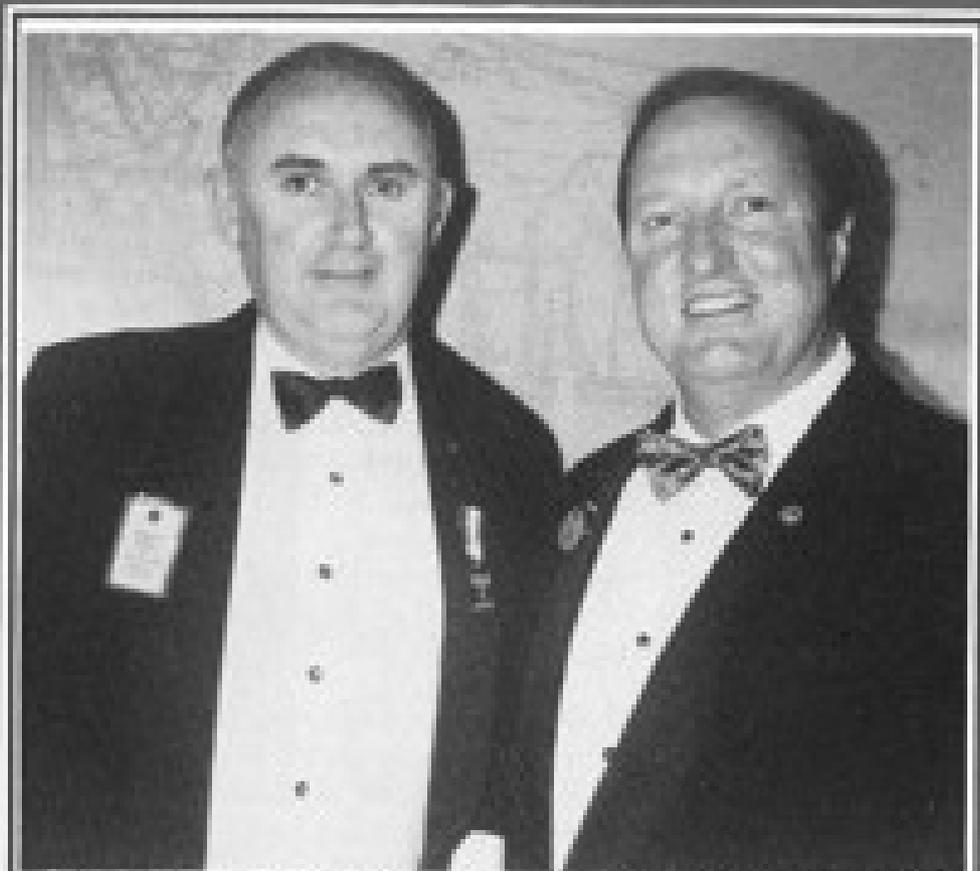
**Lions Clubs International District 201W2**

**2011 Convention Committee**





# WEST LION



*Past Council Chairman Ambrose Depiazzi, left, congratulates DG Ian Kelly on his election to the position of Council Chairman for 1993-94.*

201 W1

TWO ONE

201 W2



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