

Top Club Service Award CA7

Every club in our Constitutional Area 7 covering Multiple Districts 201 Australia, Paupua New Guinea, New Zealand and the islands of the Pacific, Indonesia and New Caledonia including Vanuatu, Tahiti has the opportunity to be recognized by entering their Top Service project in this award.

Service is our key focus.

Silverstream Lions of District M is the winning New Zealand entry and will now be entered into the CA7 Area section with the winner to be announced at the ANZI forum in Christchurch 2023

Lions Club of Silverstream

Community Service Projects – Environment

How the club decided to undertake the project activity to service the community?

About 5 years ago Silverstream Club had a brainstorming session to identify a project, which fitted our environment theme.

We agreed that we needed to beautify the area around the railway lines and to be seen by our community.

The area was mainly covered in gorse and blackberry and was not being looked after at all. The bridge to the station was a dis-used road bridge which had been built in the 1950's and was no longer being maintained.

A committee was set up to spearhead this project, firstly by contacting the correct authorities, Railways. Wellington Regional Council and Upper Hutt City Council to obtain agreement for the project. This was no mean feat as all parties owned a section of the area and no party wanted to take responsibility for the area, so it had been left to become an eyesore to all train goers and residents who passed through it to the Silverstream Railway Station or to the Silverstream shops.



Once agreement to proceed had been made by all parties, the work started.



Secretary Peter Stern reviewing the plans



Club and Lions banners are displayed at each working bee

Involvement of Lions members

A significant portion of the club members, partners and families have been involved in this project at some stage covering,

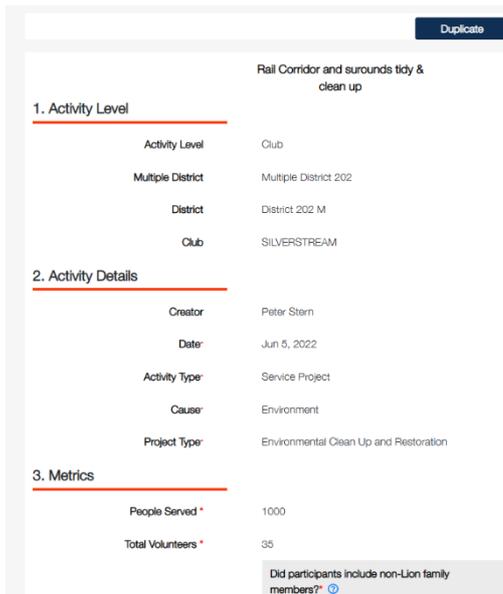
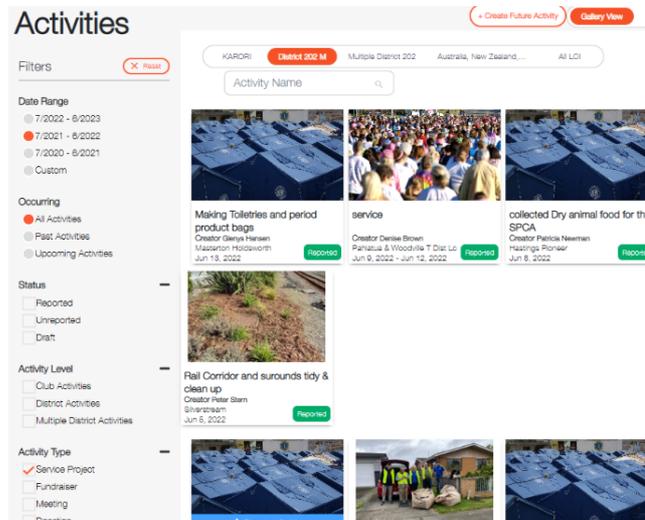
- Initial planning and planting design
- Regular three-monthly Sunday morning working bees, firstly cleaning and then weed spraying the areas. Once the weeds were under control we started planting many native trees and grasses which the club had purchased
- On a regular basis we tended the plantings, with regular weeding and replanting when any died or were stolen etc. We also had regular working bees to remove rubbish from along the railway lines and surrounding areas.
- We organised for several tree planters and murals to be painted on the old tired looking bridge.
- On each of the 3 hour Sunday Mornings we had coffee and scones supplied by various Club Members.



In total it is estimated that at least 30 person hours were spent each month on the project for a total of **over 360 hours** during the 2021-2022 Lions year, and a further 300+ hours this Lions year so far.



Screen Shots from MyLion Reporting – June 2022



Benefit to the community

The attached photos show the progression of the project over the past few years and clearly show an area of ground that was run-down, covered with gorse, Blackberry, weeds and rubbish that was an eye-sore to the many 1000's of commuters who daily passed over the bridge to the Silverstream Railway Station as well as school children who travelled to and from the local schools.

The area now is tidied up with terrific murals painted on the bridge which bring joy to all who cross over. It has also become an area where members of the public meet and stop to drink their coffees in the morning.



Collaboration of the club with the community

The organising committee worked closely with NZ Rail, Wellington Regional Council and Upper Hutt City Council to obtain agreement to proceed and must obtain permission each time from NZ Railways to work beside the tracks from a safety point of view.

A local landscape architect whom we had worked with before was engaged to design the plantings for us – a copy of which is included in this Awards entry.

During our working bees we are often stopped by members of the public enquiring as to what we are doing and offering suggestions for further improvements.

We have involved local church and youth groups, including youths from ATC from time to time to assist with the cleaning up also.



Linked to one of the global causes.

This project was principally focussed on the Environment as one of the Global Causes but with the involvement of the Local Church Sunday School Youth became an additional Focus.



The spin-off from our work in the community is that the last 5 new members inducted to the club have come directly from this project. We have gained 3 members who are under 30 which is a complete turn around for the club.



Other information on how the club engaged with the community

Our club regularly posted on Facebook on the Silverstream Community and various Upper Hutt Community Pages on the progress of the project. Each time we asked for members of the public to come along and assist with the clean-up. Our newer members became involved and interested in this project and were invited to a meeting and ultimately to join our club.

At our weekly BBQ outside the local New World Supermarket, we promoted what we were doing at the bridge and received positive feedback as well as suggestions and donations to assist.

In July 2022 our Club was runner up in the Heritage and Environment Section for the Wellington Airport Regional Community Awards 2022. This was presented to us by MP Chris Hipkins and the UH Mayor Wayne Guppy

