



“The Mighty M”

Newsletter of Lions District 202M New Zealand

August 2025

Welcome to the first edition of “***The Mighty M***”— your monthly update spotlighting activity and engagement across our district.

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FROM THE DISTRICT GOVERNOR'S DESK

“TOGETHER WE ROAR – THE MIGHTY 202M”



Hello to the Lions of the Mighty 202M,

It's an absolute honour to introduce myself as your new District Governor for 2025–2026.

My name is **Leon Downes**, and I am both proud and humbled to step into this role, knowing the incredible footsteps I follow and the powerful pride of the Lions that stand behind me.

Joining me on this journey is my amazing wife Liz, who has been a constant source of support, strength, and encouragement throughout my Lions journey.

We both look forward to connecting with many of you over the coming year as we travel across the district, celebrate your successes, and support your service.

Firstly, I want to extend a heartfelt **thank you to our outgoing District Governor and Cabinet**. Your hard work over the past year has helped shape stronger clubs, inspired service in every corner of our district, and continued to grow the legacy of Lions in Aotearoa New Zealand.

The energy, commitment, and compassion you brought to your roles have laid a solid foundation for us to build on.

To the Lions Clubs across the Mighty 202M – from **Wellington to Gisborne** and **everywhere in between** – thank you for your tireless work in your communities. Whether it's raising funds for local needs, running youth programs, or stepping up during emergencies, your service continues to make a real difference. You embody what it means to be Lions: **where there's a need, there's a Lion**.

I also want to warmly **welcome our new Cabinet members**, Club Presidents, Directors, and of course, every one of our valued Lions and Leos members. Thank you for stepping up, saying yes, and bringing your skills and passion to the table. The year ahead holds challenges – but also great opportunities. We'll be focusing on **membership growth, community impact, leadership development, and building strong, connected clubs**.

A special **thank you to everyone who attended the Presidents' Luncheon on Saturday, 26 July** – Presidents, Club members, partners, PDGs, and supporters. It was a wonderful day filled with inspiration, connection, and pride in what we do.

We were privileged to hear from **Bill Day**, who shared his powerful story of service and his work on the **Playscape Project at Wellington Children's Hospital**. We were also deeply moved by **Robert Hunt**, who won the International Lions Peace Essay Contest – hearing him read his winning essay was incredibly touching; I don't believe there was a dry eye in the room.



One of the day's most memorable moments was presenting a cheque to **Sebastian from Life Flight Trust** for a **staggering half a million dollars**.

Yes, you read that right – **\$500,000!**

This phenomenal achievement is a true testament to the dedication and generosity of our clubs. A massive thank you to all the clubs who contributed – your hard work has made a real difference and saved lives.

Sadly, the day was also marked by **tragic news** – we learned that **President John Rose of the Carterton Lions Club** passed away while travelling to attend the luncheon. Our thoughts, love, and condolences go out to John's family, friends, and fellow Lions. His commitment to Lionism will not be forgotten.

As we now move into the Lions year ahead, let's stand proud of where we've come from and look forward with courage to where we're going. Let's continue to grow, serve, and lead – side by side – as the Mighty 202M.

Yours in Lionism,

Leon Downes

District Governor 202M 2025–2026

Mighty to the Core – Roaring for More

MENTAL HEALTH AND WELL BEING

IPDG Anne Richardson:

All around the world, mental health and wellbeing is a growing need affecting our communities. Did you know that volunteering can help alleviate symptoms of depression and anxiety?

Did you know that Lions Clubs around the war-torn areas in Europe are working tirelessly to help displaced families. By doing so they are also helping alleviate symptoms of depression and anxiety contributing to the mental health and well-being of those people.

In our own District M, there are many areas that we could target to help with kindness, service, or fundraising.

Wellbeing. But what exactly is *wellbeing*? It is made up of several areas:

- **Physical** – our overall health.
- **Mental** – mood, self-esteem, and ability to cope with stress
- **Social** – relationships and support.
- **Emotional** – how we manage and understand our feelings.

This cause has been added to our global list of causes.

We have a proposal from The Wellington Hospitals Foundation seeking funding for the purchase of a number of Sensory Modulation Kits for use within the Mental Health Service of the Wellington Hospital Foundation. At cabinet level we have agreed to investigate further.

If any Club or Lions want more information or ideas of how they can help or promote awareness please contact Anne.

2025-2026 EXCELLENCE AWARD UPDATES

These prestigious awards are available at four levels—**club, zone, region and district**.

Clubs must earn a **Club Excellence Award as a prerequisite for Excellence Awards at the zone, region and district level**.

Applications will not be necessary for the 2025-2026 award cycle.

Awards will be distributed by Lions International to clubs that meet the updated criteria and eligibility requirements. You will find these listed below.

Club Excellence Award criteria

The Club Excellence Award acknowledges the dedication and legacy of service within individual clubs and is the foundation for excellence awards presented to Zone Chairpersons, Region Chairpersons and District Governors.

Membership

- Induct a minimum of two or 20% new members, whichever is greater (not including transfer, reinstated or charter members). Eligibility is determined based on the club's membership count on June 30th of the previous Lion year.
- Or sponsor a new Lions club.

Service

- Report a minimum of four service activities to Lions International. Three of these activities must show participation in each of the three International [Weeks of Service](#).

Leadership

- Report newly elected club officers in Lion Portal by May 15 of the current Lion year.

- A minimum of 10% of the club’s members complete any three courses in the [Lions Learning Centre](#).
- The club president for the current Lion year must not have served more than two consecutive terms.

Donations

- [Contributed to LCIF](#) a minimum of the club’s membership total on June 30th of the previous Lion year, multiplied by US\$20.

DISTRICT 202M AWARDS

PDG Rex Bullard explains:

There are two broad categories of awards: those made at our District 202M level, and a lesser number from our Multiple District and from Lions Clubs International.

District 202M Awards are made at the 202M Convention each year to recognise Clubs for their contribution over the Lions year preceding the Convention.

Awards may be applied for by – clubs, Zone Chairs, or an individual Lion.

Application must be submitted in writing to 202M.LCIF@lionsclubs.org.nz by 31 September each year.

General Considerations:

- A project can be considered for one or more award categories. However, once recognised with an award, that project will not be considered in any other categories.
- A project which has previously been recognised with an award, will have an automatic 5 year stand down period before it can be considered again (only applies to ongoing and/or long-standing club projects).
- Where a District Award can be submitted for a Multiple District Award the criteria will be the same as for the Multiple District Award and submissions should be of a standard for the District winner to be forwarded directly to the Multiple District for consideration.
- Criteria for Multiple District and District Awards are on our Lions website.

www.lionsclubs.org.nz/members/awards

- All applications for any District Award must be accompanied by a completed application which can be found at [MULTIPLE DISTRICT 202 AWARDS ENTRY FORM - 8.22.pdf](http://www.lionsclubs.org.nz/MULTIPLE DISTRICT 202 AWARDS ENTRY FORM - 8.22.pdf) (www.lionsclubs.org.nz)

- The decision of the Immediate Past District Governor is final, and no correspondence will be entered into.
- The following table sets out in three columns: What the award is for. The criteria for judging, and our 2024/2025 Winners

District 202M Project Award – M.D. Ron Usmar Award for Community Service		
<p>The purpose of this award is to encourage participation in Community Service Projects. It is permissible for each Lions or Leo Club to submit one entry each Lions year for consideration for this award.</p>	<p>Judging will follow the MD Ron Usmar Award criteria:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. The involvement of Lions members in the project / service e.g. number of members, total hours completed 25 points2. Initiative and enterprise of the idea e.g. identification of project & project planning 25 points3. The benefit to the community of the project / service 25 points4. The collaboration of the club with the community on this service project / activity 20 points5. Linked to one or more of our global causes 5 points (Childhood Cancer, Diabetes, Disaster Relief, Environment, Humanitarian Service, Hunger, Vision, Youth).	<p>2024 – 2025 Winner: Masterton Lions for their Ambulance Station fundraising</p>

District 202M Membership Award – Multiple District Keith Mitchell Award for Membership Growth, Extension and Retention.		
<p>The aim is to recognise Clubs who have worked extremely hard to increase their membership and have achieved this goal.</p> <p>The Club with the highest net gain in membership for the preceding Lions year.</p>	<p>Judging will follow the MD Keith Mitchell Award criteria. Points awarded as follows:</p> <p>Number of new members during year (1:1) (excluding transfers and reinstated members).</p> <p>% increase of new members against club membership to 30</p>	<p>2024 – 2025 Winner: Wainuiomata Lions</p>

	June (1:10) % Net membership increase for the Lions year (3:1) New Clubs sponsored (10 points) Number of Charter Members of new club (1 point per charter [not transferred] member) Club Branch sponsored (5 points) Branch Members (1 Point per club branch [not transferred] member)	
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District 202M Youth Award – Multiple District Pat Ryan Youth Award

The winning entry of the District Contest will be forwarded to the Multiple District Secretary as the District's Entry to the Pat Ryan Youth Award.	Judging will follow the MD Pat Ryan Award criteria. Number of youth involved 10 points Benefit to the participants and the community 20 points e.g. leadership, self-confidence, Percentage of club members involved 10 points Initiative and enterprise 10 points e.g. identification, planning & delivery of activities	2024 – 2025 Winner: Lions Club of Waipawa – New Leos Club
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District 202M Public Relations & Communication Award – Multiple District Ron Rowe Award

The winning entry of the District Contest will be forwarded to the Multiple District Secretary as the District's Entry to the Ron Rowe Public Relations & Community Service Award.	Judging will follow the MD Ron Rowe Award criteria. Entry description = 5 points Club bulletins = 10 points (layout - including masthead, appearance, illustrations, originality) (content - including editorial, reports, completed projects, future projects, Club news, coming events, humour) Club website or e-Clubhouse = 10 points Club Social Media page = 10	2024 – 2025 Winner: Lions Club of Masterton Host Waipoua
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	points Other forms of communication or publicity = 10 points Club has a Marketing Communications Chairperson = 5 points	
District 202M Lloyd Morgan Lions Clubs Charitable Trust Support Award		
Aim is to encourage Lions Clubs to give regular support to the Lloyd Morgan Lions Clubs Charitable Trust.	Awarded to the club who has made the largest donation, based on a pro rata basis	2024 – 2025 Winner: Lions Club of Aotea Railway
Lions Clubs International Foundation		
Aim is to encourage Lions Clubs to give regular support to LCIF	Awarded to the club who has made the largest donation, based on a pro rata basis	2024 – 2025 Winner: Lower Hutt Lions
District 202M Top Club		
To the club which may not be the top in an individual area but has the best all round performance.	Club must have met the criteria and applied for the club excellence award by the 31st August deadline for the previous Lions year. Criteria and application on the International Lions Website www.lionsclubs.org	2024 – 2025 Winner: Lions Club of Kapiti
Club Excellence Awards		
	The entry form is on the LCI Website , and entries must be submitted by 10 th August to allow time for processing at District level prior to being forwarded to LCI by 31 August 2024	2024 – 2025 Winners: Kapiti Lower Hutt host
Kindness Matters Award		
This is an International Award for Service Projects What was unique, outstanding or innovative		2024 – 2025 Winners No entries were received

<p>about this service project? Why is this service project important to your community? Which local partnerships helped make this project possible, if any? How did this service project elevate the Lions brand? . Were any resources from Lions International's service resources (Advocacy Toolkit, Service Toolkit, Service Project Planners, or program webpages) used to plan and execute this project?</p>		
Environmental Photographic Competition		
<p>Photos must be taken within the 202M District area, and are to be entered under the following categories:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Animal life• Plant life• Landscape (urban or natural), including ecological damage or restoration• Weather phenomenon <p>Judging photos will focus on originality, artistic merit, and portrayal of the environmental theme.</p>	<p>Click here to access the entry criteria</p> <p>All entries must be sent to PDG David Skjellerup by January 30th, 2026</p>	<p>2024 – 2025 Winners: Animal Life – Lion John Keating Plant Life – Lion Debbie Beuth Weather Phenomenon Lion Debbie Beuth Landscape Lion Cilla Britt-Montaperto Overall, Winner Lion John Keating</p>



Hello fellow Lions and welcome to the new Lions year!

Thank you to all clubs who contributed to the Lloyd Morgan Lions Clubs Charitable Trust last year,

collectively we donated \$28,781.75 to the Capital Fund, recognised 44 Lions with a recognition, and received \$67,000 in Grants to support our club's projects.

Shortly, all clubs will receive an email inviting them to support the Lloyd Morgan Lions Clubs Charitable Trust (LMLCCT) by making a club donation of \$10.00 or more per member before the end of June 2026. I know that many clubs support the Trust with a club donation – please remember that if you would like to receive the Year Tab for your club banner, you need to request it when making the donation.

Celebrating a successful grant application from 2023!

Corneal Collagen Cross Linking Machine for Gisborne Hospital



Club: Gisborne Host
Project:
Corneal Collagen Cross linking Machine for Gisborne Hospital

Value: \$27,000

Lloyd Morgan Trust Grant:
\$3,000
Eye Research Special Fund:
\$5,000

Please contact me if you need a little financial help with a club project, as the Lloyd Morgan Lions Clubs Charitable Trust may be able to assist with either a grant or a loan. that needs.

Please contact me if you would like to recognise a club member or someone within your community that has given significant service/support to your club and/or the community, the Trust has a range of recognition awards that may be suitable.

Thanks again to all the clubs for your support in the Lloyd Morgan Trust.

Jo Cameron – 202M LMLCCT Trustee

Email: 202m.lmlcct@lionsclubs.org.nz

MARCOM UPDATE JULY 2025

PDG Rex Bullard:

"Lions is the best kept secret in our communities."

Marketing can help raise the visibility of your club and achieve even better results for the great things that your club is already doing. So, whether your club is recruiting new members, promoting a project or a fundraiser, or even just sharing an incredible story, marketing can help shine a light on your club's activities and service.

Our Brand:

Our brand/logo is an important aspect of all our marketing. We need to ensure that we only use the Lions Logo which has been in use for over 15 years now. Using the old Lions Logo leads to confusion with the public.

	Primary Usage	Brand Notes
 Lions International	Use in all instances except for the exclusions noted below.	The brand we use to speak to Lions and the world.
 Lions Clubs International	Use for all Lions internal governance and legislative advocacy efforts	Creating awareness for Lions, projects or service causes is not considered legislative advocacy, so Lions International should be used.
 Lions Clubs International FOUNDATION	Use for programs, communications and campaigns focused exclusively on LCIF fundraising and grants	LCIF updates, programs and success stories can be shared under the Lions International brand when LCIF is clearly mentioned. 6 Brand Messaging and Style Guide Calls to donate to LCIF can be included as a secondary message in other communications using the Lions International brand (ex. newsletters)

Brand Values

Lions International is guided by our mission of service and service values. Here is the official language for our mission statement, tagline and motto.

Our Mission Statement

To empower Lions clubs, volunteers and partners to improve health and wellbeing, strengthen communities, and support those in need through humanitarian service and grants that impact lives globally, and encourage peace and international understanding.

A formal statement of our organizational purpose and humanitarian goals. Use with Lions International, Lions Clubs International and Lions Clubs International Foundation.

Our Tagline

Serving a world in need An external or public-facing message that quickly tells the world what we do. Use with Lions International.

Our Motto

We serve

The iconic phrase that speaks to our fundamental purpose. Use with Lions Clubs International.

Marcom for your Club:

You need to have a Lion in your club who will take on the responsibility of Marketing your club activities to your community. For those seeking further materials, inspiration, or details on engaging with our global service network, a wide range of resources are available on the Lions International Website www.lionsclubs.org. If you need any assistance I am happy to help.



PDG Rex Bullard 202M LCIF Coordinator

MJF and PMJF applications:

I encourage all clubs to contribute to LCIF on a regular basis, even if it is as little as \$10 per member. To be eligible for a Club Excellence Award from LCI clubs must have contributed US\$ 20.00 per member in that Lions year. A Melvin Jones award is the highest recognition that a club can make to a Lion who has given outstanding service to their community. Contributions can be accumulated over several years, if required. Your club should plan to present a Melvin Jones Award regularly to recognise contributions by members.

Presidential LCIF Supporter

The New Presidential LCIF Supporter Pins are available to recognise International President A.P Singh. The program aims to recognize and celebrate individuals who have contributed to making a significant impact on their mission. Please encourage clubs to recognise Club Presidents and others who have contributed to their club in the past year. If you would like to purchase a pin personally or for a presentation do not hesitate to contact me.



Bronze Pin
NZ \$100



Silver Pin
NZ \$200



Gold Pin
NZ \$300 and above

Life Flight Project – Application for Matching Grant

The Board of LCIF met in Chicago and approved our application for a matching grant to upgrade the Avionics of the new Life Flight Plane. The Project was approved for a total of US US\$131,481 which is NZ\$ 233,421.90.

Summary of Donations to 10 July 2025

Received From	Amount
NZ Lions Clubs	\$ 207,171.20
Lloyd Morgan Lions Clubs Charitable Trust	\$ 50,000.00
Misc Donations	\$ 9,250.00
Interest Received	\$ 3,458.85
TOTAL AMOUNT RAISED	\$ 269,880.05
LCIF Grant US\$131,481.	\$ 233,421.90
TOTAL AMOUNT TO LIFE FLIGHT (E&EOE)	\$ 503,301.95

This has been an excellent project involving Lions Clubs, LMLCCT and LCIF to raise this amount of funds. We presented a "Cheque" to Life Flight at the Presidents Luncheon recently.

ALL ABOUT MEMBERSHIP

Tanya Leyland 202M Membership Chair

Having spent a delightful afternoon at the President's Lunch, I thought it timely to talk about two three-letter words – TRY and ASK.

DG Leon chose to TRY something different—a lunch event instead of dinner. After a delicious meal, we heard from three inspiring speakers. Unlike previous events, this one focused entirely on guest speakers.

It's good for Presidents to learn about Cabinet portfolios, but we also need time for celebration and interaction.

With 22 of 35 clubs south of Woodville, a central location made sense—most were within three hours travel. Something to consider for future events.

To all who attended—thank you! Some repeat Presidents may have hesitated, but you gave it a TRY, and I hope you enjoyed it. I certainly did.

As the new Lions year begins, let's TRY looking at membership and projects differently. ASK how we can improve or stop things that aren't working. TRY new ideas. ASK your community what they need. Instead of just inviting potential members to a meeting, ASK them to join a project—hands-on. Involve them in planning before attending meetings.

We must TRY new approaches to attract and retain members. ASK your club for ideas—every idea starts conversation and connection.

Sadly, during DG Anne’s year we lost 109 members but gained 75, ending with 807—down 34 from 1 July.

DG Leon begins with 807 members. Let’s aim to grow and retain more. Had we kept just half the 109 lost, we’d be in a stronger position to serve.

So, let’s use those two little words—TRY and ASK—with passion, and help 202M become Mighty!

BE INVOLVED IN GLOBAL “WEEKS OF SERVICE”

Amplify your club's impact during Weeks of Service

This initiative unites Lions and Leos worldwide to address the critical issues of mental health and well-being, hunger, and the environment. By participating, you'll be part of three impactful weeks dedicated to creating positive change and making a difference in communities around the globe — together. So, get involved and help drive collective action for a better future!

Mental health and well-being

October 4-12, 2025

Hunger

January 3-11, 2026

Environment

April 18-26, 2026

Learn more about our [Weeks of Service](#) and encourage your clubs to plan a service project for each service event.

ZONE/CLUB BUZZ

Thanks to those Zones and clubs who have provided news items. I look forward to others contributing to future bulletins.

Zone 7 Update

Presidents Luncheon – Saturday, 26 July

A great turnout at the Presidents Luncheon, with all club presidents and several partners coming together to celebrate unity across our zone. Fantastic representation from every corner!

Club Milestones and Honours

Levin Waiopahu Lions Club marked their **50th anniversary** in May with a special presentation of the **Melvin Jones Fellowship** to Lion Jim Hunter. Additionally, Lion Ray Armstrong received recognition as an **Honoured Member of the LMLCCT**. Cheers to Jim and Ray!

Cheers to Kay Payne!

At the Kapakapanui Lions changeover, Kay was celebrated for her awesome work as President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Socials Director.

She is now a **Life Member of the Lloyd Morgan Trust**. Andrew Laing and Peter Cresswell shared warm words about her "can do, will do" vibe. **PCC Jo Cameron** made the presentation.



Coming Up

Kapakapanui Lions Quiz Night - 5 September Supporting Camp Quality through a fun-filled evening of trivia.

Waikanae Lions Fertiliser Sale – July to September. Stock up while supporting local fundraising efforts.

Kapiti Combined Lions Book Fair – 18–19 October Annual book bonanza — a favourite among locals.

Kapiti Rotary & Lions Joint Quiz + Auction – 1 November. All proceeds go to the Mini Golf For Good Project — come quiz, bid, and contribute!

Zone 4 Update

Carterton Lions

- Continued offering heartwarming Trishaw rides for care home residents, thanks to a generous loan from the Greytown Lions.
- Delivered an impressive **98 loads** of firewood to those in need, backed by over 360 volunteer hours — true dedication in action!

Carterton Central Lions

- Knitted with care: cozy handmade garments donated to Plunket for babies and young children.
- Packaged smiles: delicious biscuits shared by district nurses with clients in the community.
- *Project Uplift*: quality bras and swimwear collected and sent to Pacific Island communities.

Greytown Lions

- Breathed new life into the Wire Shed along the Lions Walkway with vibrant murals and a captivating history board.
- Partnered with South Wairarapa District Council to read water meters, raising \$2,000 — a stellar example of collaboration!

Martinborough Lions

- Continued the firewood initiative, offering both sales and donations to support families in need.
- Hosted the Skyline Challenge, drawing around 250 participants for biking, walking, and running adventures through scenic farmland.

Masterton Lions

- Teamed up with the Masterton District Council Archivist to uncover a 1982 time capsule planted by Masterton Host Lions Club — a blast from the past!
- Total volunteer hours for 2024–2025 reached an astounding 5,602 — a testament to incredible community spirit.

MATARIKI LUNCHEON



A wonderful time was had by everyone on 21 June, when the **Lions Club of Carterton** hosted a Matariki luncheon at Club Carterton for 85 elderly and lonely community members.

The delicious Hāngi meals, prepared and delivered by Ranui Events and Hurunui o Rangi Marae, were served by members of the Fern and Thistle Pipe Band. Guests were welcomed by former president

Drew Blair, followed by a talk from Richard Hall of Stonehenge NZ on the significance of Matariki's nine stars.



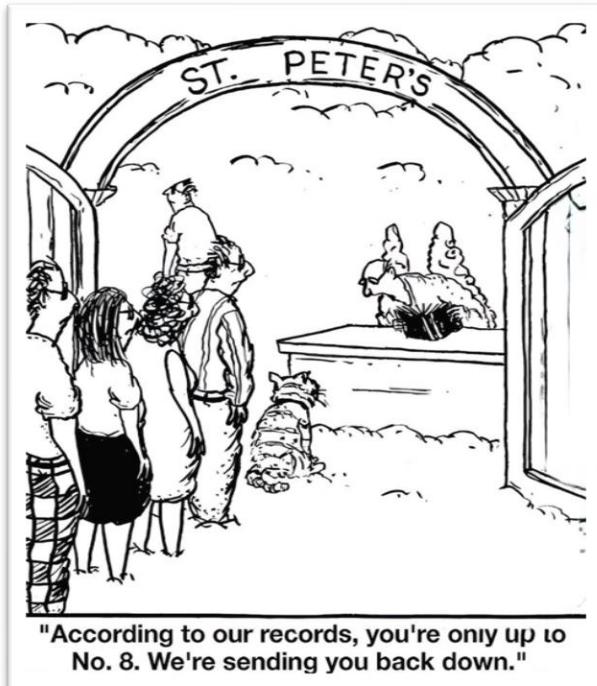
Entertainment was provided by the Wairarapa Youth Orchestra, and desserts were made by Carterton Central Lions Club. Drinks including a cash bar were available.



EVENTS FOR ALL CLUBS

MONTH	DATE	DAY
August	2	MD Speech Competition Finals (New Plymouth)
	12	International Youth Day
	19	World Humanitarian Day
	Last Friday	Cancer Society Daffodil Day
September	Month	Childhood Cancer Awareness Month
	5	International Day of Charity
	Week	Mental Health Awareness week
	Week	Alzheimer's Cuppa for a cause

WE SNEAK IN A CHUCKLE



The Genie and the Kiwi

A Kiwi bloke finds an old lamp while tramping in the bush. He gives it a rub and out pops a genie.

"You have one wish," says the genie.

The Kiwi thinks and says, "I want a bridge from New Zealand to Australia so I can drive over whenever I want."

The genie sighs, "Mate, that's a massive engineering feat. Think of the concrete, the depth of the ocean, the environmental impact... Can you wish for something else?"

The Kiwi nods. "Alright then. I want to understand women."

The genie pauses, then says, "So... how many lanes do you want on that bridge?"

GOT SOMETHING TO SHARE FOR THE NEXT ISSUE OF "THE MIGHTY M"?

From Editor Terry. Zone Chairs and club members—your stories are the heartbeat of "The Mighty M"! Whether it's a successful fundraiser, a standout Lion, or a moment that made a difference in your community, we want to share it across the district. Please send your contributions (MS Word format please) to:

202M.Editor@LionsClubs.org.nz

Deadline: 25th of each month