



"The Mighty M"

Newsletter of Lions District 202M New Zealand

October 2025



Welcome to this month's edition of "The Mighty M" your monthly update spotlighting activity and engagement across our district.

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FROM FIRST VICE DISTRICT GOVERNOR DEBBIE

Reflections on My Journey as First Vice District Governor of Lions:
Including ANZI in Gold Coast

Personal insights from experiences so far this year.

The past few months have been a transformative time in my journey, stepping into the role of First Vice District Governor (FVDG) within the Lions organisation. From local club meetings to attending the ANZI (Australia, New Zealand, Indonesia, and Islands) Forum in Gold Coast, my experience thus far has been both challenging and deeply rewarding. I am honoured to share my personal reflections, key learnings, and memorable moments from this unique leadership role.

Assuming the responsibilities of FVDG was both an honour and a significant step up from my previous Lions' roles. The position required a balance of listening, and practical problem-solving. I quickly learned that leading at the district level meant not just overseeing club activities but also acting as a bridge between local members and the broader goals of Lions Clubs International.



One of the most rewarding aspects is connecting with the diverse Lions clubs within our district. Each club has its own strengths and distinctive culture. Visiting clubs, attending their meetings, and participating in service activities allowed us all to witness first-hand the passion and commitment Lions have for making a difference in their communities.

These visits also highlight the importance of open communication and supporting clubs in overcoming challenges, whether related to membership, project funding, or leadership development. This is why it is important for each club within our district to grab the opportunity to have cabinet members visit and not only take back concerns you all may have but share the amazing things you all are achieving in your communities.

The ANZI Forum in Gold Coast: A Highlight Among the many experiences, attending the ANZI Forum in Gold Coast stands out as a cornerstone event. The forum not only provided a platform for networking with fellow Lions from across Australia, New Zealand, Indonesia, and the Islands, but also offered enriching workshops and discussions on leadership, innovation, and service. I was inspired by the spirit of unity and collective purpose we all share. Hearing stories of projects from other districts not only helped my perspective but offered valuable insights that I aim to bring back to our own district.

Throughout my time so far, I have learned several important lessons:

- **Adaptability is Key:** Every club and region faces unique challenges, being flexible in our approach can help build trust and foster amazing collaboration.
- **Listening Matters:** Some of the best ideas and solutions have come from simply listening to members' experiences and concerns.
- **Learning:** The ANZI forum and other leadership training sessions have only shown me how important the continuous learning, both for myself and those around me is.
- **Empowering Others:** True leadership lies in empowering others to step up and take ownership of their individual efforts; this helps with ensuring the long-term sustainability of our service efforts.

The journey has not been without its challenges. People are all different and we all have differing opinions working through these can sometimes be challenging but I have found that the training that I have had and resources that are available including those around you everything comes together in the end. I have found that transparency, regular communication, and celebrating small wins go a long way in overcoming obstacles and maintaining one's worth and the success of the clubs within our district.

As I continue in my role and look toward the future, I am energised by the opportunities to further strengthen our district's impact. The connections made at the ANZI forum in Gold Coast will serve as valuable networks for collaboration. I am committed to fostering an environment where every Lion feels valued and equipped to do the best they can, and where our collective efforts create lasting positive change.

Serving as First Vice District Governor so far has been a profound learning experience, filled with meaningful relationships, personal growth, and a deepened commitment to the values of Lions. The journey is ongoing, but I am immensely grateful for the trust placed in me and the support I have

received from fellow Lions at every level. I look forward to the challenges and triumphs that lie ahead, confident that together, we can continue to make a real difference.

Debbie Beuth

FVDG 202m

FROM THE DISTRICT GOVERNOR'S DESK "TOGETHER WE ROAR – THE MIGHTY 202M"



STILL ON THE ROAD!

"Celebrating Clubs, Service, and Fellowship"

Fellow Lions,

What a month it has been – I've been back out on the road again visiting clubs across our incredible district, and every visit reminds me just how proud I am to be your District Governor.

This month began with a visit to **Aotea Railway Lions Club**, where I learned that they have been running their train for a **staggering 47 years!** What an incredible achievement and a true testament to the staying power of community service.

From there I headed down to **Lower Hutt Host Lions Club**, where I saw their brand-new website and heard about the great work they are doing with their **model train and mini putt** – wonderful examples of fun projects that engage their community.

I then joined the team in attending the **ANZI Forum on the Gold Coast**, which was a fantastic opportunity to connect with Lions from across our constitutional area, share ideas, and bring back inspiration for the Mighty 202M.

Next on the road was **Kapiti Pakeke Lions**, a club that really punches above its weight with the service they deliver. From there I went to **Wainuiomata Lions**, who proudly celebrated their **60th Charter Night** – what an incredible milestone and a wonderful evening of recognition and fellowship.

I then had the honour and privilege to attend the **Youth Awards in Hastings and Napier** – two inspiring events that have been running for many years. These awards celebrate the very best of our young achievers, and it was a privilege to speak at both events. A huge thank you to **Hastings Host Lions Club** and **Spirit of Napier Lions Club** for continuing this tradition – you should be very proud.

While in Hastings, I was also invited to speak at the **Hastings Host Lions Club**, one of our larger clubs, and share in their exciting plans for the future. The next night, I joined **Tararua District Lions Club** where we proudly inducted a **new member** – always a highlight for me as DG!

From there I joined the **Pahiatua Lions Club** for their meeting at the local pub – a fun night of fellowship and laughter – before heading to **Waipawa Lions Club**. It is always a pleasure to visit Waipawa and hear about the fantastic work being done by our **one and only Leos Club in the district!**

I wrapped up my travels for the month with a visit to **Hastings Pioneer Lions Club**, before heading home to attend my own club meeting at **Waikanae Lions**, where I was proud to sponsor **two friends as new members** into the club.





To every club I've visited this month – **thank you**. Your work, your commitment, and your love for your communities are nothing short of outstanding. Please keep sharing your projects and successes with Terry so we can feature them in this bulletin – your stories inspire the whole district.

And don't forget – **mark your calendars now for our District Forum, 6–8 March in Kapiti.** It's going to be a massive celebration of what we do and who we are as Lions – you won't want to miss it.

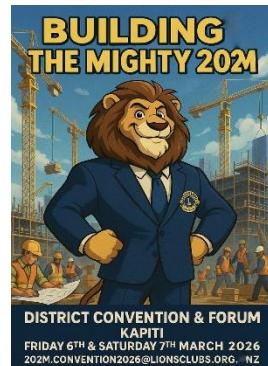
As always, if you need help or support, just sing out – I'm only a phone call or email away at 202m.dg@lionsclubs.org.nz or **021 246 0955**.

Thank you again for your incredible service – now let's keep building that membership and roaring louder than ever!

Cheers,

Leon Downes

District Governor 2025–2026 -*Mighty to the Core – Roaring for More*



DISTRICT GOVERNOR LEON'S CLUB VISITS

CARTERTON CENTRAL	Wednesday	1st October
JOHNSONVILLE	Monday	6th October
GREYTOWN	Tuesday	7th October
DANNEVIRKE HOST	Wednesday	8th October
TAWA	Wednesday	15th October
RIMUTAKA	Monday	20th October
CARTERTON	Wednesday	22nd October
WAIKANAE	Thursday	23rd October
KAPITI	Tuesday	4th November
SILVERSTREAM	Wednesday	5th November
MARTINBOROUGH	Wednesday	12th November
EASTBOURNE	Thursday	13th November
MASTERTON HOST WAIPOUA	Tuesday	18th November
NORSEWOOD	Wednesday	19th November
KARORI	Wednesday	26th November

MARKETING 101 – IS YOUR CLUB KEEPING ITS SERVICE A SECRET?

PDG Rex Bullard -202M Marcomm Coordinator

It's up to your club to unlock itself to the community. It's up to you to share your Lions pride.

It takes 7 Contacts to get a new Customer:

In business it is a well-known fact that it can take up to seven contacts before gaining a new customer. This contact can take many different forms and so it is with Lions. Here are some simple methods that you can use to promote your lions' club to your community.

- Always wear your Lions Membership pin on your lapel or clothing.
- Have a Lions Club Emblem on your car rear windscreen
- Wear your club uniform when attending club meetings and on projects
- Fly a Lions Flag when on a project in the Community.
- Have a club brochure with details about your club activities that can be handed out to the public at stalls and events that your club runs.
- Design some simple business cards that members can hand out. Have a simple message on these and a who to contact. Include your Facebook or website address, or if you don't have one put the New Zealand Website www.lionsclubs.org.nz so interested parties can find out more about what we do.
- Create a Facebook Page that regularly promotes your club activities including guest speakers. Share your Facebook page to as many other community pages as you can find in your area.
- Follow the NZ Lions and our District 202M Facebook pages for ideas of items of interest to add to your club's page.
- Complete a club environmental project that is well noticed by members of the public and ask for volunteers to help tidy the area up or help with planting etc.
- Use the local Community Noticeboards to place well produced and noticeable signs about your club projects. Ensure that these signs have the Lions Logo prominently displayed with contact details.
- Use these same noticeboards to carry a simple message about Lions such as
Have Fun – Join our Lions Club
Make a Difference in our Community – Join our Lions Club
Make new friends - Join our Lions Club

Give the public a reason to join your lions club and do not expect them to know what Lions is all about – they don't.

- Have your club set a Marketing Budget of at least 10% of your income to promote your projects and what your club has achieved.

If we want to grow our membership, then we need to be promoting Lions, and what it means to be a Lion in everything that we do. Keeping your club a secret will not grow membership. Do not assume that the general members of the public know what the Lions organisation is or what we do. Many think that we are a bunch of grey-haired old men who belong to a secret hand-shake society – it is up to each and everyone of us to dispel that myth at every opportunity.



PDG Rex Bullard -202M LCIF Coordinator

MAKING A DONATION TO LCIF

With 100% of donations going towards grants and programs, LCIF empowers the compassionate service of Lions and those who need our help. Although those benefitting from your support may never know of your generosity, Lions Clubs International Foundation and our beneficiaries are grateful for your support.

As I indicated in last months Mighty M Bulletin the money we donate to LCIF stays in New Zealand and we receive far more that we contribute towards our needy projects.

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. If clubs need assistance with making an application or want to know how much credit they have towards an MJF then do not hesitate to contact me for an update.



How long is it since your club awarded a Melvin Jones Fellow award? From records available some clubs have not done so for a number of years. I am able to send you a list of club members who have been awarded MJF's or who have credits towards an MJF.

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



Silver Pin



Gold Pin

NZ \$100

NZ \$200

NZ \$300 and above

I have an ample supply of these Supporter Pins available to send to you.

BANKING INSTRUCTIONS FOR LCIF DONATIONS

Please use: Westpac, International Assoc of Lions: 03-0502-0081103-00

LCIF Donation from CLUB:

PARTICULARS: Club Name
CODE: Club Number
REFERENCE: LCIF DR (Disaster Relief)
or
LCIF DR (Specific Event i.e. Ukraine) **or**
LCIF ES (Empowering Service)

Payment for Lions Share Pin:

PARTICULARS: Member Name
CODE: Recipient Member Number
REFERENCE: LShare
(This is a personal donation to LCIF,
for which you will receive a pin)
There are three levels of donation; bronze,
silver and gold, each with a different pin.

LCIF Donation from INDIVIDUAL:

PARTICULARS: Member Name
CODE: Member Number
REFERENCE: LCIF DR (Disaster Relief)
or
LCIF DR (Specific Event i.e. Ukraine) **or**
LCIF ES (Empowering Service)

Payment for MJF or Life Membership Application:

PARTICULARS: Club Name
CODE: Recipient Member Number
REFERENCE: MJF **or** LIFE MBR

I encourage all clubs to budget to contribute this year, a minimum of \$45 per member, to LCIF and use the funds to recognise members who have made a significant contribution to your club.

I



The Award Entry Form (last item in this newsletter) for our District Awards as well as the Awards Criteria upon which each category will be judged has been sent out separately to clubs.

The deadline for entries is extended until 31 OCTOBER 2025.

You club should consider placing an entry in for the District Awards as it gives recognition for all the hard work that you do.

Zone Chairs please recommend those clubs in your Zone that have done a great project to please put an entry in by the end of this month for consideration.

If you need more time to complete your entry please let Rex Bullard know that you will be entering and in which category and we will look to accommodate you.

MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS WEEK

All around the world Mental Health and Wellbeing is a growing need affecting our communities. Lions are working together to make a difference by raising awareness, promoting education, and advocacy.

Our International President, A.P Singh has asked us to amplify our Clubs efforts during the Mental Health Awareness week of service.

Does your Club have anything planned for this week. Do you need some ideas, if so please ask.

Put together something to raise awareness during this week, have an education evening, contact local schools, mental health centres, suicide prevention centres and ask where help is required. Consider a small project and donate the funds to our district project so we can assist the Wellington Hospitals Foundation in their bid to provide some sensory modulation kits. Our own mental health benefits also. **Doing good feels good.**



ZONE BUZZ: WHAT'S HAPPENING IN SOME OF OUR CLUBS

LIONS CLUB OF CARTERTON ARE ORGANISING A MEN'S HEALTH EXPO IN CARTERTON FOR OCTOBER

ORGANISED BY
LIONS CLUB OF
CARTERTON

MEN'S HEALTH EXPO

*** FREE EVENT ***

NO APPOINTMENT REQUIRED

Saturday 11 October 9am to 12 noon
Wairarapa Events Centre,
Holloway Street, Carterton.

*** ATTENTION ALL MEN ***

Have confidential discussions with
Health Professionals about:

- Prostate Issues
- Bowel Cancer
- Diabetes
- Hepatitis C
- Hearing Loss
- Alzheimer's
- Wellington Free Ambulance
- Heart Health
- Skin Care
- Arthritis
- General Health
- Physical Health (Strength Nation)
- St John's Ambulance

WIVES AND PARTNERS WELCOME

FROM GISBORNE AND WAIROA

Gisborne Host Lions 4 new inducted members:
Left to right Karen Macpherson Sponsor for Nat Smith-McMillan Debbie Beuth Sponsor for Jenny Cust, Lauren Taunoa, Kelsey Diack Gisborne Host Lions Club and Gisborne Wainui Lions Club hosting our District Governor **Leon Downes** visit on Wednesday 27 August had a fantastic turn out from both clubs along with a meal and presentation.



Gisborne Host were privileged to have organised two new members to be inducted by the District Governor but then the two that had come to support one of our new members during her induction decided to join too so we now have 4 new members. What a great night.

(Ed note😊) **CONGRATULATIONS AND WELCOME TO OUR NEW LIONS**

31 August 2025

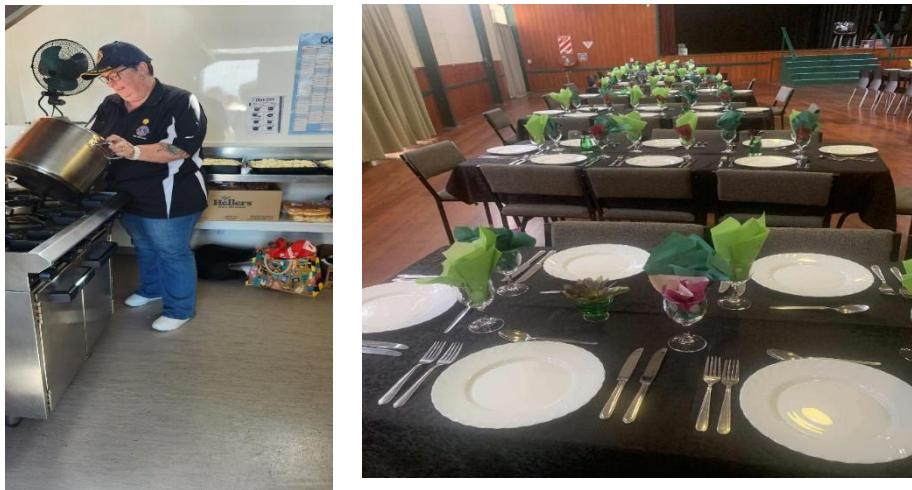
Another Catering night done and dusted for Gisborne Host Lions Club; the Rugby Referees break up. Forgot to get pictures of desserts as got very busy but fun day/night had by all and look one of our new members **Jenny Cust** getting stuck in. Ka pai guys.





13 September 2025

Had an amazing time Helping Wairoa Light House Ladies with the end of term Cactus longest day celebration. Catering for mix of students and supporters about 150 in total. Lovely full-on day had by all with a drink and debrief afterwards, always a pleasure and privilege to work alongside these dedicated bunch of Lions.



HASTINGS HOST LIONS CLUB

On the 10 September we held the annual Young Achievers awards. This event in the Hastings area has been running since 2010. Hastings Host Lions club is the host club for this event taking over 2 years ago from Hastings Heretaunga club. 17 year 13 students were recognized from 11 Schools.

The event was held at Lindisfarne, with supper, the students being piped onto the stage a Bag pipe player. These young people are totally amazing.



DISTRICT 202M ENVIRONMENTAL PHOTOGRAPHIC CONTEST RULES

District 202M Lions Clubs members may enter an original, unaltered, black and white or colour (without people) in the Environmental Photographic Contest. Photos must be taken within the 202M District area, and are to be entered under one of the following categories:

- Animal Life
- Plant Life
- Landscape (urban or rural), including ecological damage or restoration
- Weather phenomenon

The impartial judging of photos should focus on originality, artistic merit and portrayal of the environmental theme.

Photos should measure 20.3 x 25.4cm (8" x 10"). Photos can be cropped but not digitally enhanced.

The contestant's name, Lions Club, and the entry category must be entered on the back of each photo, in such a manner that the quality of the photo is not impacted.

The contestant may include a title for the photo, however not compulsory.

Please send well wrapped so they cannot be bent-and mark "Do Not Bend". Each Lions Club may submit up to three entries, as decided by the Club to:

Cliff Gott
262 Manly Street
Paraparaumu Beach 5032 **ENTRIES CLOSE 30 January 2026**

WE SNEAK IN A CHUCKLE

Do you know that New Zealand is one of the remotest countries in the world?
In fact, on average, they have about five remotes per household

Busy night at Stonehenge as they move the stones back one hour...



A teacher told me not to worry about spelling because in the future there will be autocorrect, for which I am eternally grapefruit.

A teddy bear is working on a building site.

He goes for a tea break and when he returns he notices his pick has been stolen.

The bear is angry and reports the theft to the foreman.. The foreman grins at the bear and says "Oh, I forgot to tell you, today's the day the teddy bears have their pick nicked."



District 202M Annual General Meeting

I hereby give notice that the 19th Annual General Meeting of District 202M, Lions Clubs International, will be held online on Thursday 27th November 2025.

Nominations are now called for the positions of

District Governor 2026 – 2027

1st Vice District Governor 2026 – 2027

2nd Vice District Governor 2026 – 2027

LMCCT District Trustee 2026 – 2028 (2-year term)

Nominations close 26th September 2025

As provided in the Constitution an election will be held during the Annual General Meeting on Thursday 27th November 2025. Nominations must be in writing, accepted by the nominee and seconded by a Club, should be made to:

Cabinet Secretary Carol-Anne Skjellerup
22 Walker Avenue, Mana,
Porirua 5026
or e-mail to: 202M.secretary@lionsclubs.org.nz

REMITS

Under our new Constitution with the earlier AGM date remits will be considered at a SGM during the March Forum. Any Club wishing to submit a remit for consideration at the AGM should note the following requirements

- Prior to submission Remits, in draft form, should first be checked with the District Legal Chairman Murray Pringle (202m.legal@lionsclubs.org.nz) to ensure they comply with the Constitution.
- Remits must be in the hands of the Cabinet Secretary – Carol-Anne Skjellerup no later than Tuesday 6th January 2026

**Leon Downes
District Governor**

FORUM



SAVE THE DATE

Friday 6th to Sunday 8th March

The Mighty 202M Lions Forum

Kapiti Performing Arts Centre

34A Raumati Road

Raumati Beach 5032

Why attend the Mighty 202M Forum?

- Meet other Lions and share their stories
- Lions and Leos will come together and share their experiences and service stories
- Gain access to trainings and key objectives of Lions Clubs International.
- Have fun at the "M" Themed Social on Saturday Night
- Hear three great Motivational Speakers
- Decide on which of the 20 Forum Sessions you want to attend
- Hear how a simple lions project raised over half a million Dollars to help Life Flight Trust
- Forums are critical to the success of our association and serve a variety of purposes.
- Hear how LCIF can support your projects and how you can recognise members service
- Go away motivated to "Make a Difference" with new ideas of Projects your club can do.

The MIGHTY "M" Themed Social

Prizes for Best Dressed Male & Female as well as best dressed group



Start planning to attend and bring your fellow club members along too.



Lions Clubs International Member's Benefits Program rewards our members with valuable savings and services. It is our way of saying how much we appreciate the good work you do as a Lion. Click the link below which lists all international member perks for Lions members

<https://www.lionsclubs.org/en/join/why-become-a-lion/member-benefits>

In addition, Bluebridge Ferries give Lions a 10% discount and Resene Colour shops give a discount for Lions projects, not to individuals. If the members need proof they are a Lion, ask your secretary to print a membership card from the Lions Portal.

Kihikihi Lions Club have Number Plate Surrounds available for purchase for just \$20 per set with all the proceeds going towards the Lions Cancer Lodge in Hamilton.



**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, a new 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

DISTRICT 202M AWARDS ENTRY FORM

CLUB NAME: _____

DISTRICT: _____

CONTACT PERSON: _____

EMAIL ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: _____

AWARD CATEGORY: _____

DATE & DURATION OF PROJECT/ACTIVITY: _____

ENTRY RULES:

1. A completed copy of this Entry Form must accompany the entry.
2. The entry must relate to the preceding Lions fiscal year.
3. The entry must be the work of one club (not combined clubs or a zone project).
4. Each entry must be submitted to the Awards Chairperson via email rexbullard@xtra.co.nz by 30th September to be considered.
5. Entry should be submitted by email of up to 500 words describing the entry and additional supporting documents, information, photos, media reports etc. A presentation of all materials in a PowerPoint format is encouraged but not essential.
6. Supporting information is restricted to that which can be supplied by electronic means.
7. Information should be provided that demonstrates how the criteria for judging has been met.
8. The District Governor will appoint a judging panel to decide the District winners.
9. Awards and certificates for the winners will be presented at the District Convention.
10. Entry to the competition gives the District & Multiple District permission to use any of the information and photos contained in the entry for publicity purposes.