



# “The Mighty M”

Newsletter of Lions District 202M New Zealand

**February 2026**

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**Welcome** to the first edition for 2026 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”



### ARTICLE 6 – REFLECTION, FAMILY & LOOKING AHEAD “Recharged and Ready for a Mighty 2026”

Lions of the Mighty 202M,

Since my last report at the end of November 2025, I’ve been fortunate to enjoy some valuable time with family over the Christmas break. I hope all our Lions were able to do the same – to rest, recharge, and return refreshed and ready for what promises to be an **amazing 2026** as we continue supporting our communities.

While the holiday period offered a pause, there were still some wonderful highlights worth sharing.

**Thank you to the clubs who kindly included Liz and me in their Christmas celebrations** – your warmth and hospitality truly reflect the spirit of Lionism.

One very special highlight was presenting **Allan O'Brien of the Wainuiomata Lions Club** with a **well-deserved Melvin Jones Fellowship**. This presentation was a complete surprise for Allan and took place at a packed restaurant in Petone – a memorable and emotional moment, and a fitting way to recognise his outstanding service.

I was also honoured to attend the **Diabetes Youth Camp**, led by our District 202M Diabetes Coordinator **Lion Lindsay McTavish**. The camp was held at **El Rancho in Waikanae** and welcomed more than **50 young people**. Seeing the care, commitment, and constant monitoring provided by the leaders was impressive. I have since spoken with the Lions involved about what more we, as a district, could do to offer additional support for this incredible programme, and I would welcome any suggestions from clubs.

Liz and I were also lucky enough to attend **Camp Quality in New Plymouth**. After being blown away by the experience last year, I asked if we might visit again – and we were warmly welcomed.

We were shown around by **Lion Hamish**, and it was wonderful to reconnect with our own 202M coordinators and supporters: **Barry Knight (Childhood Cancer)**, **Paul Shailer (Camp Quality)**, **Tanya Leyland (District Membership)**, and of course the amazing **Beth Anders**. This camp is truly something special, and I strongly encourage clubs to support **both Camp Quality and the Diabetes Youth Camp** wherever possible.

The poster features logos for 'diabetes new zealand' and 'Live Brave Mana Ora'. The main title is 'Fundraising to Support Diabetes Youth Services'. Below this, it lists 'FUNDS RAISED WILL HELP US RUN:' followed by a bulleted list: 'Live Brave Mana Ora camps', 'Whānau days out', 'Youth events', 'Educational workshops', and 'Support groups and more...'. To the right is a photo of a person ziplining. Below the list is another photo of a person rappelling. To the right of these photos is the heading 'OUR SERVICES HELP TO:' followed by a bulleted list: 'Build self-confidence', 'Grow resilience', 'Develop diabetes independence', 'Make whānau connections', and 'Form friendships'. At the bottom, three categories are listed: 'Inspiration Whakaohoho', 'Confidence Whakamanawa', and 'Independence Motuhaketanga'.



I'm pleased to share that I have now completed **all but one of my club visits**, and I'm really looking forward to popping back to several clubs again over the coming months. We also successfully held a **District Cabinet Meeting via Zoom**, and my thanks go to everyone involved for helping make this run smoothly.

Looking ahead, Liz and I will be attending **District Conventions, Forums, and our Multiple District Convention**. I strongly encourage all Lions to seriously consider attending our **District Forum**. The team has worked incredibly hard to deliver something **fresh, engaging, and a little different** from our traditional convention format. There will truly be something for everyone.

Importantly, the Forum will place a strong focus on the **new Lions International Pillar of Mental Health and Wellbeing** – an area of growing importance in our communities and one where Lions can make a real difference.

As always, if you need anything at all, please don't hesitate to get in touch.



[202m.dg@lionsclubs.org.nz](mailto:202m.dg@lionsclubs.org.nz)



021 246 0955

Thank you once again for everything you do. Keep up the amazing work, take pride in your service, and let us make **2026 another mighty year for District 202M**.

Cheers,

**Leon Downes**

District Governor 202M 2025–2026

Mighty to the Core – Roaring for More

**Club marketing is important for many reasons.  
Here are just a few.**



- To recruit new members
- To invite people in the community to your events
- To celebrate your club's service and community impact.
- To show the world that kindness truly matters.

## All clubs should appoint a club marketing chairperson

- A club marketing chairperson doesn't need to be a professional marketer or have decades of Lions experience. They simply need to be a leader who is passionate about their club and motivated to promote it.
- One key to a marketing chairperson's success is getting everyone involved in club marketing efforts.
- **Encourage everyone to get social:** While the club marketing chairperson likely manages a club's social media presence, all members can promote the club using their personal channels. Make sure everyone tags your club in their posts.
- **Pool your great ideas:** Consider opportunities to give your club visibility in your community. From marching in a parade to setting up a booth at a local festival, everyone can think of ways to get out there and get noticed.
- **Be brand ambassadors:** Being a Lion is part of who you are. Encourage your club members to think of ways they can represent and promote Lions outside of club meetings and service projects, you may be surprised by the connections you make when you share your Lions pride!
- **Use your voices:** Word of mouth marketing or promoting your club through the daily conversations you have with friends, family and acquaintances, is one of the most effective ways to market your club. The more conversations, the more prospects you'll reach.

## Some ideas: Five ways to promote your club

- **Promote while you serve:** Next time your club is out in the community doing a service project, set up an information table so people can stop by and learn more about Lions and your club.
- **Pitch your story:** Have an interesting story to tell about your club's impact on the community or an upcoming event to promote? Pitch your story to local media. The LCI website has press release templates and tips to help out.
- **Plant an Invitation:** Once you have read your copy of the LION Magazine consider donating it to your local library or Doctors Surgery. Include a sticker with your club information on the cover so a prospective member can check you out on social media or contact you.

- **Build your community:** Take and share lots of photos and videos to not only show off your service, but also how much fun your club has. Be sure to tag individuals, groups or organizations that you collaborate with to extend your reach.
- **Have a party:** Consider hosting a BBQ, happy hour, trivia night or other gathering. Invite your friends, family, neighbours and co-workers and be sure to promote the event on social media. Make it fun and use the opportunity to mingle and network with prospective members.

If you have some great marketing ideas, please share them with me so I can include them in next month's Mighty M Bulletin.

## PDG Rex Bullard

### GLOBALLY LIONS ARE SHINING A LIGHT IN MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLBEING

#### Our Mission

- Raise **\$100,000** to purchase Modular Sensory kits for Mental Health use within the Wellington Hospital Foundation area.
- As many clubs in Districts M as possible to contribute to this Wellington Hospital Foundation project.
- Your task is to complete a project so the district can purchase sensory modular kits.
- To raise awareness in your areas to the growing distress among young people and adults of all ethnicities.



The Lions Clubs of 202M can help with advocacy, supporting wellbeing initiatives, reducing stigma, help with awareness and just being there to support, listen and help navigate the available services. Thinking about our recent disasters, were there Lions on the ground to help, does NZ have a mental health preparedness system in place.

## IPDG Anne Richardson

### A QUALITY CAMP BUT NOT CAMP QUALITY

Many Lions will know **Camp Quality** as an organisation that provides an annual opportunity for children living with cancer to get together for a week and have as much fun as possible, consistent with living within the constraints imposed by their individual health conditions.

**Diabetes NZ Youth Camp** on the other hand is similar but perhaps less well known. This quality camp provides a safe transformative event for young people living with Type 1 diabetes. It's the one week in a year where children with diabetes don't need to feel like the "odd one out"- instead, they're surrounded by peers and leaders who truly understand their lived experience. The camp offers an exhilarating fun environment that fosters mutual independence, personal growth, connection and education.

A small group of Lions were privileged to be invited to visit and witness this year's camp (officially the Diabetes NZ Wellington Youth Camp) staged at the El Rancho Camp & Conference Centre on the Kapiti Coast. The camp is a safe environment, designed to ensure all campers are cared for with the utmost care and attention, professionally supervised by a regime of Youth Leaders, many of whom also live with Type 1 diabetes themselves and thus able to provide relatable mentorship and support.



Were we impressed? Absolutely!



Screams aplenty and squeals of delight as soaped-up campers slide down the slippery slope.

Impeccably documented procedures, continuous improvement methodology, coupled with the transfer of personal knowledge year by year ensures that all attendees are safely managed and cared for, whilst simultaneously providing a fun-filled stimulating environment for children who do not enjoy "normal" health to be "normal" together.



Every camper has their own named and documented personal supplies to attend to their individual medical needs.



District Governor Leon learning from 202M's Diabetes guru Lindsay about energy drinks that are safe for children with Diabetes.

### Do the children benefit from attending the Diabetes NZ Youth Camp?

We were told that campers often share how grateful they are for the chance to try new activities like rafting, rock climbing, and archery and how excited they are to return. Parents consistently notice increased confidence and self-management in their children after camp.

This camp is more than just a highlight of their year - it's a life-changing experience. Selection of potential camper's priorities reaching youth from diverse ethnic and socio-economic backgrounds, especially those who would benefit most. The impact of just one week is profound and lasting, helping young people thrive with Type 1 diabetes.

Diabetes NZ Youth Camps are a game-changer for all involved in a game of life that no-one enters voluntarily.



More joyful fun – Kids being kids, but always supervised and carefully monitored by rostered activity leaders.



Sadly, it was time to bid farewell to what has been an inspiring opportunity to witness the camp first-hand.

Significant financial support for this year's camp was provided by the Lions Club of Johnsonville, matched by an equal donation from Heads Up for Kids (HU4K) whose support is gratefully acknowledged.

## ZONE BUZZ – HAPPENINGS

### LIONS CLUB OF GREYTOWN

#### Camp Quality 2026 (8 to 12 January)

(Wellington/Central Districts New Plymouth Boys' High)

Greytown Lions contributed to this very successful event through the efforts of two Lions who were involved in the planning and execution of the activity throughout the week.

Also, volunteers from Greytown were amongst those who provided snacks on the buses for the campers and their companions, en route to New Plymouth.

### LIONS CLUB OF CARTERTON

#### FOOD CARAVAN



We are officially getting into the food van season, and over the past few weeks we have attended the Wairarapa A&P show, plus the Scarecrows Big Day Out – Gladstone Festival, which were both excellent events.

**The A&P show increased the bank account by \$6200, and we will be donating \$1500 from the food van takings out Gladstone, to Gladstone School.**

At the show we had two non-lions helping in the food van and even though they were busy, I think they enjoyed their time with us.

## MARTINBOROUGH LIONS CLUB

### MARTY LIONS TURNING 60! CLUB TO CELEBRATE DIAMOND JUBILEE WITH GALA DINNER

Martinborough Lions Club was inaugurated in 1966 by a bunch of men keen on contributing to their community, keen to give back through fundraising and service.

To celebrate this momentous and auspicious occasion there will be a Gala Dinner at the Martinborough Town Hall on **Saturday 21 March 2026**.



## WAINUIOMATA LIONS CLUB

### PROUD DAY FOR ALLAN O'BRIEN: AWARDED MELVIN JONES FELLOWSHIP



The Wainuiomata Lions Club is proud to announce that long-serving member **Lion Allan O'Brien** has been awarded the prestigious **Melvin Jones Fellowship**, the highest honour bestowed by **Lions Clubs International Foundation (LCIF)**, in recognition of his outstanding and dedicated humanitarian service.

Allan joined the Wainuiomata Lions Club in **2012** and quickly became a driving force within the club. In **2013**, he stepped into the role of **Vice President**, and soon after

took on the vital position of **Club Secretary**—a role he has carried out with commitment, consistency, and professionalism ever since.

The Melvin Jones Fellowship is awarded to Lions who demonstrate exceptional service and dedication to the ideals of Lionism: community service, integrity, and humanitarian leadership. Allan's tireless work behind the scenes, his deep knowledge of Lions operations, and his unwavering support of club activities have made a lasting difference both within the club and across the wider Wainuiomata community.

This high honour has been proudly presented by **Allan's fellow Lions**, recognising not only his years of service, but also the respect and appreciation he has earned from his peers through quiet leadership, reliability, and a genuine passion for serving others.

The Wainuiomata Lions Club congratulates Lion Allan O'Brien on this well-deserved recognition and thanks him for his continued dedication to making a positive difference in the lives of others.

## **GISBORNE HOST LIONS CLUB**



Gisborne Host Lion Paul Smith hard at work in our Lions Burger at Awapuni Speedway December 2025 our last night for the year. All hands-on deck for January 2026



Gisborne Host Lions Club Celebrating Christmas at their end of year Christmas Party. Our Wonderful Hosts James and Trestra McGuire – right side of the photo (below) and his lovely wife Trestra on left hand side.



## KARORI LIONS

### **KARORI LIONS HONOUR TREVOR AND BETH ANDERS WITH SECOND PROGRESSIVE MELVIN JONES FELLOWSHIP**



The Lions Club of Karori is proud to recognise Lion Trevor Anders and Lion Beth Anders with the presentation of their second Progressive Melvin Jones Fellowship (PMJF)—one of the highest honours bestowed by Lions Clubs International Foundation (LCIF), acknowledging exceptional and ongoing humanitarian service.

Trevor and Beth are long-serving, dedicated Lions who have made a remarkable and sustained contribution to Lionism. Trevor joined the Karori Lions Club in 1992, followed by Beth in 1997.

Over many years, both have given tirelessly of their time and talents, serving extensively on the Club Board and also contributing at the district level.

Their service has been recognised previously with Melvin Jones Fellowships, awarded in 2004 and 2013, followed by their first Progressive Melvin Jones Fellowships in 2018 and 2020. This latest recognition reflects their continued commitment and the consistently high standard of service they bring to Lions activities.

Club President Gina and fellow members felt it was fitting to honour Trevor and Beth once again, acknowledging how regularly they go above and beyond what is asked of most Lions.

Their dedication was particularly evident through their leadership and hands-on involvement in the recent Lions/Rotary Book Fair and the community information and membership evening. The extensive planning, preparation of displays, and countless visits to Karori businesses contributed significantly to the success of these events.

In presenting the awards, the club acknowledged not only the time and effort Trevor and Beth invest, but also their passion, enthusiasm for Lions service, and unwavering work ethic.

## **WOODVILLE LIONS CLUB**

### **TE ĀPITI TRAVERSE SET TO TEST THE BRAVE**

A brand-new trail challenge is coming to the lower North Island and it's inviting runners, walkers and explorers of all levels to experience the raw beauty of Tararua and Manawatū like never before.

The inaugural Te Āpiti Traverse, organised by the Woodville Lions Club, will take place Saturday 14 March 2026, guiding participants across the spectacular Manawatū Gorge /Te Āpiti and its iconic wind-farm ridge lines.

Designed for everyone from elite trail athletes to families seeking an unforgettable day outdoors, the event offers multiple distances and a rare chance to traverse one of Aotearoa's most distinctive landscapes.

"We're thrilled to bring an event like this to the region," says Scott Gilmore, Woodville Lions Club President.

"It's not just about fitness. It's about showcasing our home, connecting people with local businesses and making sure every dollar raised goes right back to support our regional Hospice Arohanui, as well as our community."

With entries now open, organisers expect 300 - 500+ participants in year one, alongside whānau, supporters and visitors from throughout the lower North Island. Promotional momentum is building, supported by regional media, running networks and digital engagement.

Businesses are invited to join as event partners, with naming rights and 8ered sponsorship packages (gold, silver, bronze, in-kind) now available. Full event details, course informa8on and sponsorship opportuni8es can be found at [teapititraverse.nz](http://teapititraverse.nz).



## TrailRun/Walk/Adventure

Four stunning courses over the Tararua & Ruahine foothills

- > Woodville, Tararua District
- > Saturday 14 March 2026

### Choose Your Challenge

- > Te Āpiti – 42 km
- > Ruahine – 20 km
- > Te ahu a Turanga – 14 km
- > The Downhill – 10 km (run or walk)

Something for seasoned trail runners, first-timers, and families.

### Why Run the Te Āpiti Traverse?

- First major running event of its kind in Manawatu/Tararua.
- Different events for different abilities. Marathon distance for seasoned athletes.

A welcoming, community-driven event  
Proudly hosted by Woodville Lions Club



## ENTER NOW

<https://eventplus.net/tav26>



## An event with heart

The Te Āpiti Traverse is more than a run — it's a celebration of place, people, and perseverance. Organised by the Woodville Lions Club, proceeds support Arohanui Hospice and local community projects across Tararua.

### Event Highlights

- An inaugural event that is bound to become a national feature event in the NZ calendar
- All abilities welcome

### Key Details

- 14 March 2026
- Woodville, Manawatū–Tararua
- Start times vary by course
- Entries via **Event Plus Te Apiti Traverse 2026**

### Stay Connected

[teapitraverse.nz](http://teapitraverse.nz)

### Follow us on social media:

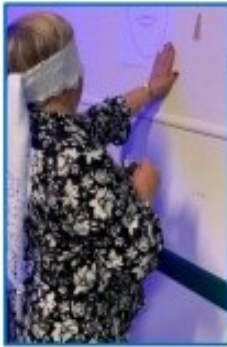
Te Āpiti Traverse | Facebook Instagram TeApitiTraverse (@TeApitiTraverse)/X

<https://www.youtube.com/@teapitraverse>



## WAIROA LIGHT HOUSE – SOCIAL MEETING “MOVEMBER”

The House Committee set the scene for the Social Meeting theme  **Movember** with table settings in Blue to acknowledge and raise awareness of men’s health - prostate cancer, testicular cancer, and mental health/suicide prevention. The Programme Committee organised a Moustache Quiz featuring a slideshow where participants had to guess which celebrity each moustache belonged to, as well as a game of Pin the Moustache on the Man’s Face, a fun twist on the classic Pin the Tail on the Donkey



Heather Sexton having ago to put the moustache in the right place. Harder than it looks.



Handsome dude



Guest Lynetta was the winner of Pin the Moustache Game and was also the winner of Moustache Celebrity Quiz

The Programme Committee also distributed moustaches to members which, though not particularly flattering, sparked lots of laughter



## EXPRESSION OF INTEREST – LEHP DISTRICT COORDINATOR (DISTRICT 202M)



### 💧 Expression of Interest – LEHP District Coordinator (District 202M)

Vision is one of the most powerful ways Lions change lives — and now we're stepping things up.

To strengthen the **Lions Eye Health Programme (LEHP)** across New Zealand, every District is appointing a **LEHP District Coordinator** — and **202M is now calling for Expressions of Interest.**

This is a key leadership role helping our clubs deliver real, hands-on impact in communities through vision screening and eye health awareness.

### 🎯 What this role does

The LEHP District Coordinator will:

- Be the main link between **District 202M** and the **National LEHP Office**
- Drive and coordinate LEHP activity across our district clubs
- Encourage clubs to get involved in **vision screening** programmes
- Ensure screening reports and data are sent to our multiple district coordinator
- Help promote and organise **screeener training**

### 💡 Who we're looking for

A Lion who:

- Is passionate about community service
- Has an interest in health, youth, or practical service projects
- Is organised and a good communicator
- Wants to help clubs make a visible, life-changing difference

We may be partway through the Lions year, but putting this role in place now sets us up for a stronger, more coordinated programme for the rest of this year — and beyond.

 **Expressions of Interest close: 1 March 2026**

To apply, send through your application:

**David Skjellerup | District GST Lead | [202M.GST@lionsclubs.org.nz](mailto:202M.GST@lionsclubs.org.nz) | 022-882-2364**

Let's keep Lions at the forefront of protecting sight and changing lives across 202M.

Please have a look at the link for some more information about the programme:

<https://lehp.org.nz/>

## WE SNEAK IN A CHUCKLE

### SPEEDING

A policeman pulled alongside a speeding car on the highway. Looking at the car, he was astounded to see that the elderly woman behind the wheel was knitting.

The policeman wound down his window and yelled to the driver, "Pull over!"

"No!" the woman yelled back, "Cardigan!"

### FIVE SURGEONS WERE TALKING ABOUT THE BEST PATIENTS...

The first surgeon says, "Accountants are the best to operate on because when you open them up, everything on the inside is numbered."

The second surgeon says, "Nah – librarians are the best. Everything inside them is in alphabetical order."

The third surgeon responds, "Try electricians, man! Everything inside them is color-coded!"

The fourth surgeon intercedes, "I prefer lawyers. They're heartless, spineless, gutless, and their heads and butts are interchangeable."

To which the fifth surgeon, who has been quietly listening to the conversation, says, "I like engineers. They always understand when you have a few parts left over at the end."

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

From Editor Terry

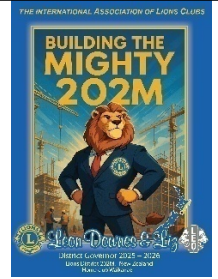
Zone Chairs and club members—your stories are the heartbeat of "The Mighty M"! Whether it's a successful fundraiser, a standout Lion, or a moment that made a difference in your community, we want to share it across the district. Please send your contributions (MS Word format preferred) to:

**[202M.Editor@LionsClubs.org.nz](mailto:202M.Editor@LionsClubs.org.nz) Deadline:** 25th of each month





**Lions Clubs International  
District 202M Inc  
Forum  
6<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> March 2026  
**REGISTRATION FORM**  
Registrations close 20<sup>th</sup>  
February 2026**



*An editable online version of this form is available on the Lions District 202M web page  
Or: Fill in your registration details and send to [202m.convreg@lionsclubs.org.nz](mailto:202m.convreg@lionsclubs.org.nz)  
Register by 6<sup>th</sup> February to go into a draw to win your registration cost back.*

**Lion, Leo and partner details**

Surname:	First Name:
Office Held:	Club:
Partner's Surname:	Partner's Name:
Postal Address:	
	Post code:
Tel:	Mobile:
Email Address:	
Special Dietary or Accessibility Requirements:	
Emergency Next of Kin:	Tel: Name:

Registration and programme details	Lion, Leo attending	Partner attending
<b>Friday 6<sup>th</sup> March 2026 – Venue; Te Raukura Ki Kapiti</b>		
5.00pm – Registration opens		
6.00pm - Welcome drinks and platters followed by official opening		
<b>Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> March 2026 – Welcome, Guest speakers and Forum Sessions Venue; Te Raukura Ki Kapiti</b>		
8.30am – Registration opens		
10.30am – Partners programme commences		
<b>Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> March 2026 - Dine and Dance to live music. Venue; Southwards Car Museum</b>		
6.00pm – Door opens – 11.00pm Close		
<b>Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> March 2026 – Remembrance &amp; Rededication Service. Venue; Kapiti Coast Funeral Home</b>		
10.00am – Doors open – 1.00pm Close. Light lunch provided		

Registration and payment process	Cost per person	Number attending	Total cost \$
Lion and Leo – Friday 6 <sup>th</sup> to Sunday 8 <sup>th</sup> March	\$150		
Partners programme – Friday to Sunday 8 <sup>th</sup> March (Saturday lunch is at own expense)	\$120		
Partners attending Dine and Dance Only – Saturday 7 <sup>th</sup> March	\$75		
<b>Total cost</b>			
<b>Please scan and email</b> your registration form to <a href="mailto:202m.convreg@lionsclubs.org.nz">202m.convreg@lionsclubs.org.nz</a> <b>Registrations close 20<sup>th</sup> February 2026</b>			
<b>Payment</b> via internet banking to account number; <b>03-0502-0547903-001</b> Account name; Lions Clubs International Distr			
<b>Particulars; <i>Forum2026</i> Code; <i>Your Club name</i> Reference; <i>Your family name</i></b>			
<b>Registrations will be confirmed once the internet banking has been received.</b>			

## Lions District 202M – 2026 Forum information

### Programme

#### **Friday 6<sup>th</sup> March 2026**

Venue is Te Raukura Ki Kapiti, Performing Art Centre, 34a Raumati Rd, Paraparaumu

Welcome drinks and the Official opening from 5.00pm

The drinks will be Eftpos only

Opening Flag Ceremony by Kapiti College students

Guest speaker Brendon Nicholls

#### **Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> March 2026**

Venue is Te Raukura Ki Kapiti, Performing Art Centre, 34a Raumati Rd, Paraparaumu

Doors open from 8.30am

Welcome of official party and MP Tim Costley

Guest speaker Abbas Nazari, Former Tampa Refugee

Breakout sessions, District awards

Keynote speakers ID Graeme Wilson and Jared Kreft

#### **Dine and Dance**

Venue is Southwards Car Museum Theatre, Otaihanga Rd, Paraparaumu

Doors open from 6.00pm

Come to enjoy an evening of live music, and dressed to reflect the "Mighty M" theme

#### **Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> March 2026**

Venue is the Kapiti Coast Funeral Home, 9/11 Hinemoa St, Paraparaumu

Doors will be open from 10.00am

Time to remember and respect those who have provided service.

The service will be followed by lunch at 12.00pm.

### Partners Programme

#### **Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> March 2026**

Partners will depart Kapiti College at 10.30am

Will visit and play the Rotary/Lions Mini Golf Project – the first of its kind in NZ opened in November 2025

This will be followed by a tour of The Bond Store Distillery

And then a "Long Lunch" at the Waterfront Café at your own expense.

Followed by some free time to enjoy the local Raumati shops and surroundings

Before returning to Kapiti College

### **Sunday Remembrance and Rededication Service**

**Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> March 2026**

For catering purposes please advise us of any family members or guests attending the remembrance service.

The cost for lunch for family members and guests attending the service is \$25.

For Forum registered Lions and Partners, the cost for lunch is included in the registration cost.

Please ensure that eulogies for the deceased members being recognised are provided to the District Almoner by the end of January 2026. Email to [202m.almoner@lionsclubs.org.nz](mailto:202m.almoner@lionsclubs.org.nz)

### **General advice**

Dress - Smart casual or club polos / uniforms – please wear your Club name badge

Dress for the Dine and Dance – Something to reflect the "Mighty M" theme.

### **Accommodation**

There is a wide range of accommodation available and it is your responsibility book direct.

Check out [Booking.com/Kapiti](https://www.booking.com/Kapiti) or [Airbnb/Kapiti](https://www.airbnb.com/Kapiti) for providers within Paraparaumu, Raumati and Waikanae.

### **Catering**

Relish Café and Catering, Waikanae are the catering provider for the Forum including the Saturday night dinner.

### **Guest Speaker Bios**

#### **Brendon Nicholls**

On leaving school Brendon trained as a soldier and became dedicated to a military future. He accepted every opportunity to develop the skills needed for combat and firearms training and in 2008 Brendon was selected for a role with Delta commandos in the Australian Army.

Deployments in various regions followed with tours of duty in 2010 and 2012 in Afghanistan.

The mental challenges in contemporary theatres of conflict are significant and has taken a huge toll on the men and women who have served.

Brendon retired in 2013 and went on to serve with the Australian Police in Queensland and the New Zealand Police when he moved here in 2017.

Brendon and his wife Charlie live in Taranaki and the NZ Police continue to benefit from Brendon's experience as a volunteer coach dealing with violence on the job.

#### **Abbas Nazari**

Abbas is a best-selling author, refugee advocate and public speaker. In 2001, Abbas and his family were resettled to New Zealand, after fleeing the Taliban in Afghanistan as refugees and being rescued by the Tampa container ship, a saga that became known as the Tampa affair.

Abbas went on to win a Fulbright scholarship to the United States in 2019, graduating with a Master's in Security Studies from Georgetown University, Washington DC.

Abbas published his memoir *After the Tampa: From Afghanistan to New Zealand* with Allen & Unwin in 2021. The book became a number one bestseller, with former Prime Minister Helen Clark describing the story as 'extraordinary'.

John Campbell discussed the book on TVNZ's Breakfast, saying 'After the Tampa tells the heart-breaking, life affirming, heroic, remarkable story of fleeing the Taliban. A stunning book, beautifully, gently written, unflinching but also full of compassion and hope. This is a beautiful book.'

Now an author, personal trainer, public speaker and a business owner, Abbas was named a finalist in the University of Canterbury Young New Zealander of the Year for 2022.

### **International Director - Graeme Wilson**

Graeme is from Invercargill, New Zealand, was elected to serve a two-year term as an international director of Lions International at the association's 106th International Convention in Melbourne, Australia, June 2024.

Graeme is a Bank Manager with Kiwibank.

Graeme started his journey with Lions International as a member of the Invercargill East Lions Club and is currently a member of the Waihopai City Lions Club.

Graeme has received numerous awards including the Lloyd Morgan Lions Clubs Charitable Trust Award, multiple International President's Medals and multiple International President's Certificates.

### **Jarrold Kreft**

Jarrold was born and raised in New Zealand, before moving across the Tasman to Australia in 2006. Alongside his career in enterprise software sales with Adobe, Jarrold is a devoted husband and the proud dad of two young daughters; a role he describes as his most important job of all.

Community service runs in his blood. His grandfather dedicated over 40 years to Lions in New Zealand, and in 2018 Jarrold decided to honour that legacy by joining the Lions Club of Manly.

Since then, his commitment has been extraordinary. Among many roles for Club and District, he has led as Club President for three years, been recognised as a Progressive Melvin Jones Fellow, and has served as District IT Chairperson for 6 years (for which he has earned an International Presidents Medal).

His leadership also extends to the wider Lions family, where he contributes as a Director of the Lions NSW/ACT Nurses Scholarship Foundation and the Australian Lions Wellbeing Foundation.

What sets Jarrold apart is how he bridges two worlds: technology and service. In his professional life with Adobe, he helps some of Australia's most recognised organisations embrace digital transformation. In his volunteer life, he is equally passionate about helping Lions embrace new tools and ideas to expand their impact in the community.

Today, he brings those worlds together in his keynote: **"AI Tools for Everyone."** Jarrold will challenge us to see artificial intelligence not as something distant or intimidating, but as a practical, everyday tool that can help volunteers, professionals, and entire communities achieve more.

### **Contact for Registrations**

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