

N5 Convention 2014 Recap

Day Two

Day TWO of N5 District Convention 2014 was scheduled on Saturday, 15 November. Of the three days of the convention, this would have by far, been the busiest.



Registrations, Accreditations and Static Displays started as early as 7:30 am.

At 9:00 am, Convention Chair, Kevin Yau called the meeting to order in the Lyceum Auditorium. PDG Diane Sherrington then gave the Invocation, followed by Lion Janice Cheung reading the Lions Purposes and Lion Ron Gattone reciting the Lions Code of Ethics.



PDG Diane and Lion Janice

PDG Bob Korotcoff was our first guest speaker. PDG Bob was given a warm introduction by his mate PDG David Tuckerman. Lion Bob opened his presentation by telling us that he had chosen to attend our convention and in doing so had to give up attending the G20 meeting. What a great privilege it was for us! He proceeded to take out his camera and took a picture of the audience from the lectern. He said that he needed the photo as evidence of attending our convention. This prompted a round of laughter from the crowd.

Insurance could be a dry topic for many. The way, however, that Lion Bob organised his presentation, mixing interesting anecdotes with hilarious videos, just breathed life and energy into his talk. It was sheer pleasure lis-



Guest Speaker PDG Bob Korotcoff

tening to Bob speak.

Next, came the first business session. After the first credentials report, a quorum was established. Then the Standing Orders Relative to Rules of Procedure and Debate as printed in the Convention Booklet were considered and adopted unanimously.

This was followed by consideration of three Notices of Motion:

NM1: That the Can Assist Building Project be cancelled as a District Project.

NM2: That the Convention approves the Nurses Scholarship Foundation Limited (The Company which is the Trustee of the Nurses Scholarship Foundation Trust Fund) replacing its present Constitution (Memorandum and Ar-



The Presiding Panel

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Lion Kevin Yau, the young Convention Chairman

ticles of Association) with the new Constitution submitted to the Cabinet Secretary.

NM3: That the District establish a Category 1 project to be named Hepatitis B Free for the term of 3 years commencing 1st January 2015.

All of the above Notices of Motion were duly moved, seconded and explained to the conventioners. All were put and unanimously carried.

One might marvel at the smoothness of the passage of these Notices of Motion. An insider's story is that there were a few Lions who had been working painstakingly on related issues and documents prior to the convention, and this paved the way for both a smooth passage and a favourable outcome.

Let me just take the new Constitution of the Nurses Scholarship Foundation Limited as an example. When the first draft was presented to the District Cabinet for endorsement in August, 19 amendments were proposed. In the



The Queue at Morning Tea with VDG Dennis "leading the pack"

weeks and months subsequent to that, we saw Lion Helen Rae, Lion Peter Deane and PDG David Tuckerman working hours on end to amend the draft document to raise it to a level that is acceptable to all. To me, they have realised the Lions ethics "to Build up and not destroy!" To these dedicated Lions and others who have contributed to this positive outcome, I take my hat off to them!

Morning tea was up next. Danish pastries were served alongside tea and coffee. Apparently, many were hungry then. Despite the fact that we had ordered 20 extra servings on top of the registered numbers, I was told there wasn't enough to share. There were some Lions at the back of the queue who didn't get to have any Danish pastries at all. I offer my sympathies to those who missed out and let me welcome them to my world. I actually missed out on both the morning tea and the Friday evening canapés as I had to use the break times for last minute preparations!



The Time-keeper & The Convention Chair

After morning tea, District

Chairpersons had their turn to present their portfolios to the conventioners. In order to allow as many Districts and Multiple District Chairpersons to have their turn, the Hosting Committee had chosen to impose a strict time limit of 5 minutes maximum on all presenters. Lion Anthony Jackson courageously volunteered to accept the task as time-keeper. He was officially presented with the District gong and gavel on stage to do the job. He was to strike the gong when there were 30 seconds remaining and strike it again when time was up. I then, was left with the thankless task of requesting the presenter in question to stop,

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PDG Elvio and Lion John

that is, if they were still talking.

The presentations by District and Multiple District Chairpersons then began in earnest. First up was PDG Elvio Munzone speaking on his Autism Spectrum Disorders Kids Communicate Project, then it was Multiple District Chairman PDG Nigel Jeny's turn. He provided us with an update on the Lions Clubs International Foundation. Lion Helen Rae then spoke about the latest achievements of the Lions Nurses Scholarship Foundation. Regrettably, all these three speakers went overtime and were gonged! I thank them for stopping graciously when I requested them to do so.

Then it was Lion John Chate who spoke on both of his portfolios: Lions Peace Posters and Lions Hearing Dogs. Thankfully, John presented both portfolios in less than five minutes. He was the first speaker to leave the stage without being gonged. That was exemplary and set the pace for the ensuing speakers.

PDG Peter Mendl followed. He spoke about Organ Donor's Awareness. Lion Peter Touzel revealed to us the latest travelling plans of Sydney 88. Then Lion Dr Margaret Talbot and Lion Doreen Moore did a joint presentation on the Reading Action Program. When these were done, the business session was adjourned, giv-



PDG Peter, Lions Margaret & Doreen



Lions Helen and Peter

ing way to the AGM. At that juncture, I was aware that there were still at least five other District and Multiple District Chairpersons who were waiting for their turn to speak. I knew we had to run a really tight ship in order for them not to miss out.

At the AGM, the audited accounts for the 2013-2014 Lions Year were presented and considered. Thanks to the promptness and professionalism of the team, particularly Past Cabinet Treasurer Larry Dunne and Cabinet Treasurer Trevor Batten, together with the assistance of Past Council Chairman Ernie Kidd and our Hon Auditor Lion Milan Grzic, the financial reports were put together orderly and in good time to be published in the Convention Booklet. This made it easy for all concerned. The motion to have the audited accounts accepted was put and carried unanimously. Neither a single question nor query was raised. Again, this hadn't happened accidentally. It was the outcome of lengthy consultation and constructive discussions in the lead up to the convention.

Over the lunch break, two forums were held. One was a Leo Forum and the other was a membership Forum entitled *Strengthen Your Club*.

The Leo Forum was led by District Leo Liaison Chairperson, Lion Gail Hart. Some 16 Leos from Hornsby, the Hills and Oatley Leo Clubs attended. Leo Joel Pattinson-Cashman, Leo of Year from Mackay, Queensland was also in attendance. At Lion Gail's request, a tasty sandwich lunch along with a variety of fruit and

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Participants at the Leo Forum

drinks was made available to them on a complimentary basis.

The *Strengthen Your Club* Forum was facilitated by District Global Membership Team Coordinator PDG Steve Coleman. It attracted a handsome crowd. Lots of practical ideas on club care and membership were brought forward and shared by the participants. Currently, N5 is in a rather strong position in Membership terms. Since July 2014, we have "chartered" two Lions clubs and two Leo clubs. A third Lions club was recently chartered on 5 January. It is among one of the first Lions clubs chartered worldwide in 2015. Meanwhile, we are also working on several other areas with extension potential. On top of this, the current membership figures are in the black, with higher gains than we anticipated.

The afternoon session kicked off with a presentation by Ms Moraq Jones, a guest speaker



Moraq Jones, Beyondblue Guest Speaker



VDG1 Joanne Sim Campaigning

from Beyondblue. Moraq aptly shared her experiences which involved significant ups and downs in her own personal life with the audience. Through her presentation, the conventioners became increasingly aware of the potential harm that depression may cause and the importance of seeking professional help whenever required. Moraq received a warm acclaim from a grateful audience.

Next, came nominations for a number of vacancies. There was a casual vacancy for a Directorship of the Lions NSW-ACT Save Sight and Public Health Care Foundations and two vacancies for Directorship of the Lions Nurses Scholarship Foundation. Lions Ron Gattone and Elaine Turner were the nominees for the former while Lions Sun Lui and David Erskine were the nominees for the latter.

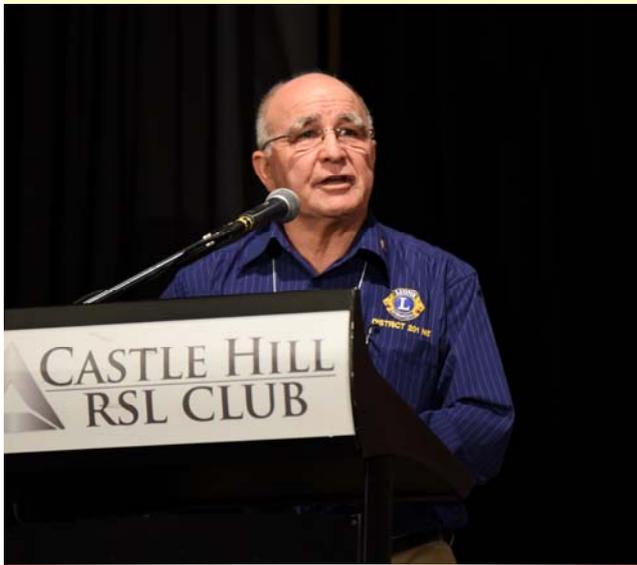
Then came the campaign speeches of the various candidates for the positions of District



VDG2 Dennis Halpin Campaigning

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Lion Ron Gattone Campaigning

Governor, First Vice District Governor and Second Vice District Governor for 2015-16. VDG1 Joanne Sim, VDG2 Dennis Halpin and Lion Ron Gattone were the sole candidates for each of the above positions respectively.

After CBL Chair PDG David had made the voting announcements, the meeting adjourned for afternoon tea. Convention delegates had two queues to line up for then, one for their ballot papers and the other for citrus tarts served with tea or coffee.

When the convention resumed, it was the Leos' show. Under the guidance of Leo Coordinator Lion Gail Hart, Leos Maddie (The Hills), Carla (Oatley) and Georgia (Hornsby), each stepped up to the microphone in turn to present a brief report on a segment covered at the Leo Forum earlier. It was most pleasing to witness these Leos presenting so confidently and capably



Leo Maddie



Leo Georgia

Leo Carla

while also having a good time. An extra bonus was that they all did it within their allocated time. They did not require the gong service of the time-keeper.

Next, PDG Steve Coleman provided a summary of the discussions at the *Strengthen Your Club* Forum. Riding on the back of a strong Mem-



Lion Gail, DG Anthony and Leos

bership position of our District to date, it was apparent that Lion Steve's message had found a favourable audience.

Many may be aware that N5 Convention 2015 will be held on Norfolk Island. Five Lions from Norfolk Island and Arthurs Vale Lions Clubs flew over to Castle Hill to promote the convention. When the Norfolk Islanders took centre stage, they put up a promotional show inviting Lions to "Do time on Norfolk Island in 2015".

All plenary sessions of the Convention were adjourned at 4:30 pm. However, the day's

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PDG Steve Coleman

events were far from being over. There were two forums next. One was the Global Leadership Team (GLT) Forum facilitated by Lion Chris Bowles, GLT Coordinator and the other was the District Public Relations (PR) Forum chaired by PR Coordinator Lion Derek Margerison.

The GLT Forum aimed to address leadership issues. Through that, we are aiming at having more Lions better equipped with the right tools to help advance Lionism. We also wish more Lions will put up their hands to become

Lions leaders in the near future.

The PR Forum was part of a new initiative that I have put in place. It is to address the adage that "Lions are the world's best secret". We have now assembled a team of dedicated Lions who are enthusiastic in promoting Lions and have a strong track record in doing so. This was the second PR Forum held this year. The purpose was to conduct a "show and tell" session where know how and PR contacts were shared. It is a gratifying experience to have a platform to show one's published work to one's peers. Two more forums are being planned for 2015: the first one is on Sunday, 15 February and the second one on Sunday, 12 April, both at the Castle Hill RSL Club.

While some were attending the final forums for the day, others chose to relax. There was still the Convention Dinner to come. To them, it was a welcoming break in a long and fully engaging day.

By Lion Anthony Cheung



Inviting Lions "to Do Time" on Norfolk Island in September 2015