

Pambula-Merimbula Lions roar into action with a new community trailer



The Lions Club of Pambula-Merimbula is living up to the Lions ethos of “Where’s there a need, there’s a Lion” by building a very special support vehicle for the Sapphire Coast following the bushfires then COVID in quick succession.

Mobilising volunteer skills, labour and business donations, the Club has engineered a unique multifunction community trailer that can provide relocatable relief to residents facing any future emergencies, and can also help locals enjoy a host of community events.

The ruggedly engineered and comprehensively equipped trailer contains two pull-out 1000mm barbecues and a 500mm grill / bain-marie combination – as well as hot and fresh water resources, 240V plug-in points for internal and external equipment, stand-alone power with a generator and solar, fridge-freezer, portable defibrillator and first aid kit.

Its 840W solar panels and batteries connect to a 12V system, partnered with a 12/240V inverter, which provides lighting, hot water, fridge, and mobile phone charging without having to run the generator.

“During the Black Summer bushfires of 2019-20, our volunteers catered at the Bega Evacuation Centre, providing hundreds of meals, then later operating in response to other

recovery projects,” said an instigator of the project, Club President Elect Jon Webb, who sought grants, designed and undertook the fit-out work while working closely with Club members including Gordon Matthews who oversaw chassis fabrication and contributed his electrical skills.

“The lessons from these bushfires – and the awareness that there will be future emergencies – demonstrated the need for this community trailer project”, which was recognised and backed by our Club’s members and attracted major sponsors such as the Bendigo Bank Community Enterprise Foundation and the Australian Lions Foundation.



Sponsors drawn from far and wide included Narooma Solar, Gas Struts Australia, Connections Plus Australia, and the national and international Aus J Hot Water Solutions company. Aus J Managing Director Jay King said that, like other sponsors, he could immediately see the value of such a self-help project and had no hesitation in donating the latest Duoetto hot water solution that was ideally suited to the task. “Clubs like the Lions give back to the community, which I applaud. People such as Jon Webb, Gordon Matthews, and their team are can-do people, who bring their previous practical and professional skills to the table, as well as their enthusiasm to promote grassroots change in the way the Lions Clubs operate - one life, one relationship, and one community at a time,” said Jay.



Jon Webb says the Lions Club of Pambula-Merimbula is grateful “for all this support. Until this multifunction trailer was built, we relied on Club members using personal trailers, lifting all the heavy equipment, (barbecues, generators, fridges, etc.) and having less-than-ideal equipment which was just not good for an ageing volunteer base - no matter how willing.”

“In a vehicle that will be used both for emergency situations and community events, we have to ensure compliance with changing food safety rules and build in the ability to cater for larger numbers. Good food handling and readily available hot water are among the important amenities incorporated into the project.”

“We will use it for fundraising and community celebration activities such our free Lions community carols event and golf fundraising competitions, and the trailer will be loaned out to other service clubs that undertake community support activities as the need arises. The investment in creating this multipurpose trailer will continue to pay back the community for years ahead,” says Jon.