



OCTOBER TO DECEMBER 2025



These three months seem to be just one event after another and, as usual, the members of Pambula-Merimbula Lions Club were there to serve our community.

We also took the opportunity to have some fun and to enjoy the Festive Season.



THIS ISSUE

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- Pambula Late Night Shopping
- Carols by Candlelight

Congratulations to:

The Joke

Upcoming Events

Some History

LIONS CLUBS INTERNATIONAL AND THE UNITED NATIONS

In 1945, Lions Clubs International and other representatives from 46 nations met to help establish the NGO section of the United Nations (UN) organisation.

This highlighted LCI's commitment to a "certain and lasting peace for the world".

Lions continues to work with the UN and the number of hours we work in service of the community and the number of people we serve is reported to the UN each year.

At various conventions, you will see the United Nations flag take its place with the flag of LCI.

Each year Lions members are invited to attend Lions Day at the United Nations in New York City.

In the January 2026 District Digest you will see an invitation to attend this event on Friday, 20 March 2026. So, if you will be in New York City on that day, accept the invitation. See the Lions Clubs International website for details.



MENTORING PROGRAM



Pictured is PDG Gordon Matthews getting driving lessons on the Ford Model T Bakers Van at the Sapphire Coast Historic Vehicle Club!

Gordon volunteers his time to mentor students from Eden Marine High School in Mechanics on a Tuesday. The students only have positive feedback from their mentoring, learning new skills, mechanical knowledge, team building and life skills that they would not ordinarily obtain due to family circumstances. Gordon is a valued member of the mentoring program since his retirement..

On 18 November 2025, Gordon had his first driving lesson in a Model T Ford Bakers Van under the guidance of Neville Leach (The Guru). Gordon passed the driving opportunity with flying colours.

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Words and pictures from Tony Bassett.



MENTAL HEALTH WEEK 2025

The Mad Hatters' Tea Party

On Sunday, 5 October, Pambula-Merimbula Lions held a Mad Hatters' Tea Party at the site of our proposed Multi-purpose, Intergenerational Recreation Area (MIRA) at the bottom of Tura Beach Drive, Tura Beach as part of Mental Health Week.

The event was time to look to our mental wellbeing by having some fun and fellowship with a Mad Hatters competition, games and a wonderful morning tea.

The Australian Lions Wellbeing Foundation provided material, members and friends provided the food, tea and coffee and water. Tracy was an enthusiastic games master. There were some amazing hats!

The morning was enjoyed by members and guests, neighbours of the MIRA site and friends. I was very pleased to have the company of my 99 year-old friend, Eileen, as she has been to many Lions events in the past and was very happy to meet those Lions again.

Please see over for pictures from the event.

Give a Roar for Wellbeing

On Friday, 10 October, Pambula-Merimbula Lions supported Mental Health Week with a BBQ and information booth outside Merimbula Visitor Information Centre, in Market Street, Merimbula. There were various mental health and wellbeing support/service providers that shared the space with us. Jon, Ric, Peter, Suzanne, Lyn M, Dave and Addie assisted on the BBQ and the information booth.

Mad Hatters Tea Party Pictures



DISTRICT 201N2 CONVENTION 2025

SATURDAY, 7 NOVEMBER TO SUNDAY, 9 NOVEMBER 2025

- The District 201N2 Convention 2025 was held at the National Portrait Gallery, Parkes ACT with pre-convention activities including a wreath laying ceremony at the Australian War Memorial and early registration and a welcome drinks event at the Hotel Realm.
- The District Governor David McKenna had called on Lions in the District to "Be Audacious Be Impactful Be of Service". Ninety-seven Lions, Leos and guests attended.
- Interesting and informative sessions, panels and workshops were held over the two days.
- The District AGM was held and in the Business Sessions motions were passed on such things as continued support for Disaster Relief Australia (a motion from our club).
- Elections were held for the positions of District Governor, First Vice District Governor and Second Vice District Governor 2026-2027. Don Reed, John Woods and Lyn Matthews were elected to these positions respectively.
- In an out-of-session decision, PDG Ann Reed was elected as the District's candidate for International Director.
- See also President Tracy's update on the Convention for the 25 November 2025 Business Meeting.

DISTRICT PEACE POSTER COMPETITION 2025

- At the Gala Dinner for the Convention, the winner of the District Peace Poster competition was judged by the District Governor assisted by Bethany Cordell, the V5 District Peace Poster Coordinator.
- The winner is: Blade Schwenke of Blairmount Public School, sponsored by the Lions Club of Campbelltown City. Blade's winning entry is shown over the page.
- Belle McIntyre from Pambula Public School was awarded a Highly Commended prize.

CONVENTION GALA DINNER

The theme for the Gala Dinner was "Dress to Impress".

Held in the Gordon Darling Hall of the National Portrait Gallery, a glittering night was had by all, with a large raffle being held in support of the Australian Lions Childhood Cancer Research Foundation.

Please see over for photographs from the Convention and the Dinner.



LIONS FAIRWAY GOLF DAY

Pambula Merimbula Golf Club Saturday, 15 November 2025

- In challenging weather conditions, a field of 133 players entered the Pambula-Merimbula Lions 49th annual charity golf day.
- Members were at the course from very early in the morning selling raffle tickets and providing sandwiches, bacon and egg rolls, sausage sandwiches and hamburgers to the Fairway players and anybody else who came along.
- The Fairway Committee, ably led by Rob Slapp, had been busy distributing letters with requests for sponsorship and/or donations. Following up these requests is a time-consuming job as is the organisation of the event and members' participation.
- Our club had resolved that the green fees on the day should be donated to Operation Smile, a Lions program that offers life-changing surgery to correct cleft palate deformities in children. A donation of \$695.00 was sent to Operation Smile as a result.
- Wonderful goods and vouchers received from our sponsors meant that the raffle and golfing prizes were something to behold.
- Net profit for the day was \$6,228.63. Great exposure for our club and Lions.



THE MAGICAL MYSTERY TOUR FOR THE CHRISTMAS PARTY SUNDAY, 7 DECEMBER 2025



- An exciting time was had by members for the 2025 Christmas party on Sunday, 7 December 2025.
- A Sapphire Coast Bus Lines coach picked members up from stops in Pambula, Merimbula and Tura to go we knew not where!
- Tracy and Jon had worked very hard to prepare all the props for a mystery game to find out who kidnapped Santa. Was he still alive and where was he? Who dun it?
- At the first stop on the mystery tour at Lions Park, Tathra, we enjoyed nibbles, wine and cheese and soft drinks. Proper coffee was available from the Aboriginal Corporation's new food van where trainees were making the coffees and teas for purchase. We also used the time to garner information from the other characters in the game to try and decide who the culprit was. It was great fun interacting with the other members.
- Turns out Santa had taken himself away to find out who was plotting against him.
- Members and guests had each brought along a gift for a disadvantaged child.
- Back on the bus and to the final stop, the Tathra Pub, where members could order a meal of choice and enjoy the great company, good food and beautiful view.
- A lovely way to celebrate Christmas.
- PS. I still think Mrs Claus was involved!



A CRAZY PRE-CHRISTMAS TIME

- On Wednesday, 10 December 2025, members provided a BBQ for the Tackling Indigenous Smoking initiative at the Merimbula Basketball Courts.
- On Thursday, 11 December, members ran a BBQ at the Late Night Shopping event in Pambula Village. The spicy chorizo rolls were all sold out.
- On Friday, 12 December, the Lions Club of Pambula-Merimbula held its Carols by Candlelight at the Pambula Sports Ground. This turned out to be an excellent venue and Rotary's mobile stage, Beryl, worked well. We were so happy that the event went ahead after being rained out or unable to get onto a sodden Berrambool Oval over the previous two years.
- It was hard to pick the winners of the Best Dressed Girl, Boy and Family as there were so many great costumes and Christmas finery. Thanks to Top Fun and Magic Mountain for the great prizes.
- My favourite performer was the last act of the night, Felicity Dowd, who sang Paul Kelly's Christmas song "How to Make Gravy". Felicity has been nominated for a Golden Guitar award at the Tamworth Country Music Festival this year.
- I have included President Tracy's assessment of the night and some photos over the page.

Lions Carols 2025

Prior to the actual event, the Carols Committee had run a BBQ at Mitre 10, Pambula on 29 November 2025, to raise money for the night.

What an incredible Lions Carols night! The atmosphere was buzzing, the crowd was glowing, and the new venue? - an absolute winner with plenty of space for kids to run around and enjoy themselves. It truly felt like we have at last discovered the forever home for Lions Carols.

A massive round of applause to Suzanne, Peter, Ronnie, Vicki, Ric, Carol, Tom and Lyn McKendrick — your planning was flawless, and the whole event ran like a well-oiled Christmas machine. And of course, a special shout-out to our wonderful Mr and Mrs Claus and their cheerful elf, who brought so much magic to the little ones.

Our MC, Ricky Bloomfield, lit up the night with charm and energy, and every single performer was outstanding. We're incredibly lucky to be surrounded by such generous, talented musicians in our community.

To all the volunteers — members, friends, and helpers — thank you. From set-up to pack-down and everything in between, your efforts made the night shine. We simply couldn't do it without you.

Some happy snaps from the evening:







CONGRATULATIONS GO TO:

**Ray and Sandra Symonds on their
60th Wedding Anniversary in
November 2025.**

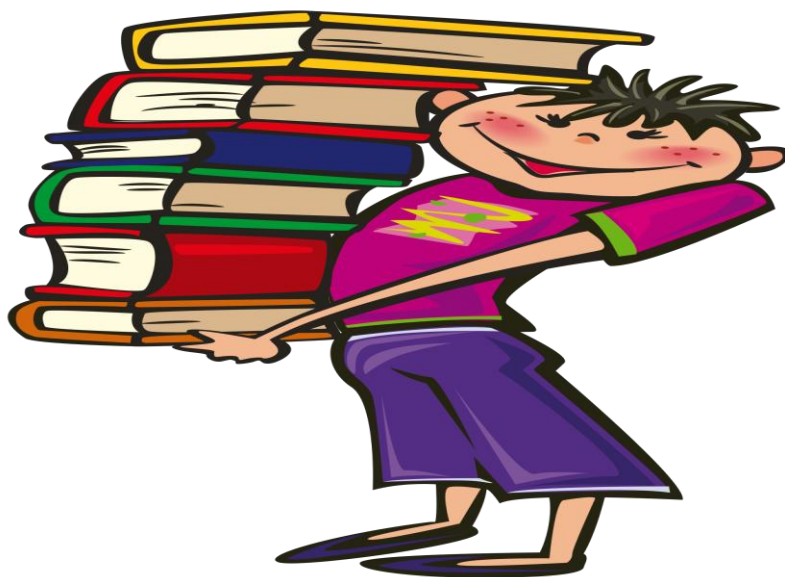
**The Lions Club of Bemboka on the
60th anniversary of their charter in
January 2026.**

DAVID AMERY'S JOKE FOR THIS EDITION:

There was this inflatable school boy who went to an inflatable school and had an inflatable teacher. All was going well until one day he went berserk with a pin.

He popped the school, then he popped the teacher and finally popped himself.

The Headmaster went up to him, flat on the ground, and said “you know Jonny, I’m very disappointed in you. Not only have you let the school down, but you’ve also let your Teacher down. But, worst of all, you’ve let yourself down!”.



COMING UP:

- Youth of the Year Club Final
 - Tuesday, 24 February 2026
 - Club Sapphire, Main Street, Merimbula

- Youth of the Year District 201N2 Final
 - 29 March 2026
 - Club Sapphire, Main Street, Merimbula