



Lions Club of Lara Inc.
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President's Report

Jeff Cahn

2016-17 Campaign

Lions, guests.... another Lions year almost over and will be at the end of this report, and I shall try and find some time to add to my memoirs!

Firstly, the outgoing executive has certainly been hardworking and supportive of the programme agreed upon at a Planning Meeting prior to the executive's installation.



Instead of boring the leg off a chair with statistics and figures, I shall simply run through some of my objectives for the past campaign. For those of you who are interested in statistics etc, you will find the answers working your way through the minutes of past business meetings.

I know I harp on about this Club being progressive and innovative. It is because I am proud to be associated with a Club that has thrown away the shackles of mediocrity and conservatism and embraces change which hopefully, attempts to reflect current community values. To this end, I can point to our updated Club constitution which, with Corio Norlane must be the only Lions Club constitutions that actually recognise female members, recognise and embrace Safety Officers as elected Executive committee members. It also now recognises correspondence as electronic in all its forms which includes phone calls, emails, text messages, Facebook and snail mail and recognises electronic banking practices. I challenge anyone to find other clubs who have embraced change to reflect current community values!!

The Club re-launched its website this year as well as launching Facebook and making it a useful communication tool. We still utilise the Lara Happenings as a promotional tool along with the Centreway BBQ and Raffle.

We have shown community leadership when we initiated the Lara Network Group. The concept and first meeting was held in 2012 being run by then President Rob Eyton. The following year, President Peter Kuchenmeister held that concept and the Club undertook another Network Meeting where representatives were also able to move about and chat to each other. These were the precursors to the successful current format of quarterly meetings, where community and group representatives meet on the first Monday evening of the season. Representatives now sit around one table and communicate with each other and share the hosting of meetings.

The adoption of the Lara Community Drop-In Centre as a Lions project will give stability and assurance to those Lions and volunteers running it. The group found a niche within our community and has attracted many people of a like mind who wish to get together weekly and produce items that assist the needy within our community and the Geelong region. Being under the Lions banner allows the Drop-In Centre to further develop and work with other like agencies in partnerships to benefit those who are less fortunate than ourselves. I hope that Lions will periodically; visit the Drop-In Centre on a Friday evening between the hours of 6:00 pm to 7:30pm to appreciate what is happening.

Our Club has certainly had a busy year within our community. There seemed to be and indeed there were endless number of rosters being sent out to members. This means that the Club is certainly active and working well within the community. And just to show how popular rosters are, there will probably be few more going around for the exciting new projects during the 2017-18 year. Your response to the rosters has meant that our major fundraisers have been extremely successful, and the relevant chairmen and committees must be congratulated. We really have pumped some funds into our local community, indeed around the \$35,000:00 mark.

The Club has also undertaken projects to help celebrate the Lions International Centenary. We have assisted the Lara CWA with their Afternoon Tea with Elegance held at Ingenia, with the funds raised from the event going to the Mt Rothwell Biodiversity Centre. The Club also voted to obtain new park benches to be placed along the walking track of the Kevin Hoffman Walk with suitably inscribed plaques. We also undertook a Club relaunch within the community for the next century, by rebranding ourselves with a new Lions Club of Lara logo and the subsequent purchases of new clothing and advertising. We also hosted the Lions International Centenary Regional BBQ at Eastern Park, Geelong.

Our District V2, which administers some 71 Clubs in South Western Victoria, has four serving Club members. Our Club now has 39 members and is in a healthy position. Our involvement in District projects was limited to attending a combined dinner meeting with Lions from Little River and Corio Norlane to host a visit from the District Governor. This became a special event for us as we had the wonderful opportunity to induct our very first Club Mascot, Kellie Burgess. We also enjoyed another victory at our annual Bowls/BBQ match against Little River in January.

One aspect of community work I have always supported is working in partnerships with other organisations and groups. It strengthens our community links and helps us get to know how other groups operate. This is why the Lara Network Group is important especially as a communication tool.

Incoming President Jen and her executive will be heading up some new exciting projects, so buckle up and get set for an interesting ride into the future. Together with our new members, new Mascot and new logo, we head towards the future encouraged, invigorated and optimistic. There is a touch of déjà vu tonight. The last time I handed over the presidency, it was to Sue Eyton, our first ever female president.... Tonight, I again had over the presidency to our second ever female president. I hope that Jen will have the wonderful success that Sue had in her year and achieve all the goals set out in our Diaries.

I wish to thank all Lions for their support and dedication to the roles they carried out this past year, I think some special mention is in order to Julie Tate and Steve Burgess for the development and running of their respective health nights. These health nights will become an expected annual event within our community and will continue to help raise awareness of some of the health issues, both physical and mental, that our community is facing. I would like to thank our first Mascot, Kellie Burgess. Kellie worked tirelessly at several events. I was also proud to be your PM for the District's Incoming Officers School held at the Lara Secondary College. When we do something, we certainly do it well.

With our own Dennis Grant working his way up to being our first ever home grown District Governor, I feel that we will be holding a few more Incoming Officers Schools until he reaches the dizzying heights of Moses, and leading us all to the Promised Land!

Our Club has navigated its way through 46 years of serving our local community. It has had its ups and downs like all Clubs and has survived better than others. I believe its continued success is due to a proven track record of administrative procedures which includes the Operational Plans which interacts with the Executive and Business Meeting minutes and keeps us all on track.

Lions and guests, as this presidency grinds to a halt, it is truly the end of an era, indeed a one hundred year era and we commence the next century with our second female President. In a few minutes, I shall be asking Sue Eyton to perform the installation of the forty seventh executive. As the Club grows and faces new challenges, I really do hope that the Club will continue attracting suitable people to join the ranks and join with us on our journey helping the local community and other Lions causes.

As some of you will know, I'm not a President who issues many certificates to members to acknowledge efforts to projects. This is because some members are available most of the time and can jump in and help out. There are members who work and assist on weekends and there are members who due to health issues cannot contribute as much as they would wish to do so. I believe that members of this Club put in when they can and the Club is moving along quite effectively. We must always remember that at the end of the day, we are all volunteers.

Lions, guests, I thank you for your attention and your support during this past busy year. Thankyou.

Jeff Cahn

President

Lions Club of Lara

26 June 2017