

TO WORTHY CAUSES GIVEN

Compassion and the will to help people disadvantaged and in need, is the core of Lionism and its motto "We Serve." Three important events in Lionism converged in 2007, That year was the 90th Anniversary of the founding of Lions International by Melvin Jones, the 60th Anniversary of the extension of Lionism to Australia and the 40th Anniversary of the Lions Club of Yeppoon. Lions International was started in Australia by former Apexian, Bill Tresise with the chartering of Lismore Lions Club on July 1, 1947, with 21 members. Bill Tresise became the first provisional district governor. The second club was Murwillumbah then followed Melbourne, Kyogle, Brunswick-Mullumbimby, Footscray, Coolangatta-Tweed, Southport, Casino and Ballina.

Since 1917, Lions International has spread throughout more than 180 countries in the world with a membership that has reached 1.4 million.

Lions have worked in micro projects of lawn mowing, doing repairs and helping aged and disadvantaged people, to bigger tasks of building and rebuilding community facilities, supplying equipment for the disabled, providing disaster relief for victims of tsunamis, earthquakes, fire and drought amounting to billions of dollars.

Lions International has raised millions of dollars to fund research and treatment for kidney diseases, leukaemia and blindness. The "Sightfirst" program has given \$241 million towards prevention and cure of blindness. Money raised through "Campaign Sightfirst II" will continue this wonderful work by Lions.

This has been an inspiration to all Lions to serve and more recently world-wide they rallied to raise millions of dollars for the tsunami appeal to help victims and to rebuild the destructions of coastal areas of Malaya and Indonesia. Yeppoon Lions Club put together an appeal concert and fundraising in 10 days to give \$6000 to the appeal.

SERVING THE COMMUNITY

Similar to many of our neighbouring clubs, Yeppoon Lions have travelled a long way in many directions to give help. Among those projects was the restoration of then 86 year old mother of 14 children, Mrs Hall's uninsured home in Spring Street when it was gutted by fire in 1982. Free labour kept the cost of rebuilding for materials only to \$7200 including donations and discounted goods.

Yeppoon Lions replaced the roof of Yeppoon Girl Guides building at no cost. They played an important role in building brick barbecues with roofs and steel plates to help Yeppoon Lioness Club with the development of Lioness Park on Lammermoor Beach. The club raised \$4000 to supply a Hart walker to a young Yeppoon lad Clinton Sleeman with cerebral palsy, and gave him a new world of independence. The life of 14 year old Aaron Skene of Yeppoon was given new hope when the club raised \$10,000 in an appeal to fund a BiPAP ventilating machine to help cope with his obstructive sleep apnoea condition. Help was given to a young child, Jazz Hedges of Yeppoon suffering from multi-disabilities rendering her incapable of moving from a

horizontal position. The club bought Jazz a \$5500 standing frame that supports her in a vertical position and has greatly improved her health.

Fundraising paid for donations of a defibrillator and a CPR mannequin to Yeppoon Ambulance Brigade. Another \$5000 was raised to install a chair lift to give aged and impaired swimmers access to the swimming pool at the Melaleuca Motel at Rydges Capricorn Resort. The Melaleuca Motel was used by the Iwasaki Sangyo Foundation to provide free holidays for the aged and impaired. Unfortunately the facility at Melaleuca has been closed, but the chair has been relocated to the Blue Care Pool in Yeppoon and continues to provide assistance to disabled people wishing to use the pool.

Royal Life Saving Society instruction classes have been conducted by the club for 38 years to train more than 1500 lifesavers in all levels of ability from three years of age up to 60 years in survival techniques, lifesaving levels of Bronze Medallion, Bronze Cross, Award of Merit and Instructor's Certificate.

Over the years, Yeppoon Lions have spent thousands of hours raising thousands of dollars from Christmas Hamper Raffles, Fig Tree Market monthly barbecues, Lions Christmas Cake sales, Lions Mint Sales and Christmas in the Park fairs. Many projects have included help for door knock appeals for Red Shield, Blue Care, Queensland Cancer Fund - hands on diabetic testing - cycle helmet promotion - drug abuse prevention - donations of large print books and talking books to the shire library.- help for meals on wheels - donations of rubber inflatable rescue craft to Yeppoon Surf Life Saving Club and Yeppoon Coastguard – donation of four vehicles to the Capricorn Coast Blue Nursing Service.

In 1996, past president Mario Cresta, in the position of District Governor of District 201Q4, brought the District Camp Quality project to Yeppoon at St Brendan's College and involved many members of Lions in the camp program to give children suffering from terminal illness a better life.

In 1997, Yeppoon Lions sold a record of 700 Lions Christmas Cakes and over time have raised thousands of dollars from these sales to help the "Save Sight" program. Lions of Yeppoon and Emu Park shared a humanitarian project to care and foster children from the nuclear disaster area of Chernobyl in Russia during a visit to the Capricorn Coast.

The success of teamwork, organisation and co-operation of Yeppoon Lions Club has been put to the test twice at district level when the club hosted and organised District 201Q4 Convention in 1977 (with the biggest attendance on record at that time) and again in 1992.

The dedication of club members over the past 40 years in service to all causes has tallied an estimated 227,920 service hours or 9496 days or 1356 weeks amounting to 26 years of active combined membership effort over 40 years.