Incoming Presidents Speech

Dear members and other readers,

The number one issue for me as President is Membership. Virtually the only thing of value in the Lions Organisation from top to bottom is its members. They are the only real asset the Organisation has. Men and women join Lions for two reasons:

First because they have a social conscience – they want to make a contribution to the welfare of their community - from the person in need down the street to those afflicted by disasters across the country and the world; and

Second is to share their aspirations and successes in various ways with like-minded companions.

These people are the essence of humanity. They make the world a better place and for this they should be exalted.

All the above is a way of saying that for this coming year my single objective is to enhance the experience, for the members of this Club, of being a Lion.

The inaugural Bob Allen award for excellence in Lionism has been presented to Lynn (Chip) Campbell by popular acclaim. Bob was not only honoured to have the award named after him but also was tickled pink to have Chip as its first recipient due to her dedication, her organisational skills, her many ideas and her communication abilities. Congratulations to both of you.

On those rare occasions that I make a good golf shot, I hoot & holler and tell everyone how good I am. This is crass and unsportsmanlike but it gives me a hell of a buzz. Perhaps our Club can at least give ourselves a pat on the back. We have a huge amount to be proud of as we are the best. Live with it and enjoy it!

It would be remiss of me in the extreme not to heap praise and gratitude also upon the partners of our Lions. Their support and forbearance are vital to the health and well-being of both our club and the Lions organisation as a whole.

As President this year I wish to follow a different path (as I usually do) to assist the Lions organisation as a whole to achieve its membership objectives. I would like to propose that the members of our Club agree on a major project to undertake, either alone or with one or more other clubs. This project may last a year or more given that for several months each year we are totally immersed in the ERNA netball project (which must not be disturbed in any way).

However, for a goodly part of the year we have the capacity to take on something big. In fact I would like to take on something so big that we need to recruit new members to help us achieve our objective. Those new members will be a part of the project and the Club – they will be doing what all Lions want to do – experience the two “P”s – PURPOSE; and PLAY.
We have a wonderful club and we want others to share this experience with us. How much easier will it be to invite potential new members if we have something they can be involved in from the time they are accepted into our ranks?

Over the coming year many of you will become very familiar with Rosemary Siviz who has very kindly offered to take some of the administrative load from both the President and Secretary due to their many other commitments (including golf). Rosemary is highly skilled in these matters and will play a pivotal role in the Club’s administration. Please cc Rosemary into every email you send to either the Board generally and the President and Secretary in particular. Her email is Rosemary@sheathers.com.au.

**Role of the President**

So far as I am concerned a President has two functions: **Facilitator; and Figurehead.** The President should make no decision on behalf of the Club without the approval of his Board and ideally only with the approval of all members. This Club belongs to its members and the members must nurture and retain ownership of it.

Thank you all for your indulgence.

John Sheather (President 2013/2014)