

Lions Club of Strzelecki

The First 20 Years

Sponsored by Korumburra Lions Club. Chartered August 30th 1997
Key supporting Lions: Ian Wilding, Rex Motton, Alan Roberts
PDG George Barnard and PDG Norma Barnard.

First Major Project

- Loch Village Market at Loch Reserve.
- All members and many Lions ladies involved. Set the club up for its future.

In the first 9 months

- Catered for local events.
- Cleared a Nyora house-fire site and fitted out a nearby bungalow.
- Substantial donation for lifting equipment at 'Greenhills'.
- Erected stockyards as a fundraiser.

1999

- The Catering Caravan was commissioned.
- Involvement with Youth of the Year commenced.
- Youth Exchange expanded greatly.

2000

- Developed and relocated Market to Loch Railway siding.
- Acquired the Nissan hut for storage.
- Set groundwork for the 'Dairy Expo' at Poowong Recreation Reserve.
- Began a monthly newsletter.

2001

- Established 'Lions Rural Revival' supporting local traders, encouraging local shopping.
- Set up 'Peer Mediation' and 'Excellence Award' programs at Poowong, Loch, Nyora and Athlone Primary Schools.

2002

- Installed underground power around 1/3rd of the Poowong Recreation Reserve for 'Dairy Expo'.
- Purchased adjacent land at Loch Market Site.

2003

- Conducted 'Time-Out to Take Stock' a free meal and social evening; supporting and entertaining 246 people.

2004

- The 'Cows Create Careers' concept was initiated.
- Hosted Lions International 1st Vice President Clem Kusiak and his wife Jeanne, for a luncheon attended by over 90 people.

2005

- Conducted a 'Young Leaders in service' award program.
- Supported the Loch community, transitioning to highway bypass.
- Assumed the responsibility of sponsor club, preparing groundwork and supporting The Lions Club of Mirboo North to their Charter.

2006

- Sponsored local children attending Licola Lions Camp.
- Initiated major fundraiser to assist Chris and Janelle Horsburgh in support of their son Ben through major surgery.

2007

- Club trip - Korumburra to Leongatha by train, complete with commentary by
- Strzelecki Lions Club Sec. and rail history enthusiast Alan Roberts; followed by a meal in the Historic Korumburra Railway station.
- East Gippsland bush fire response. Heavily involved in Toongabbie/Cowarrar area.
- Club trip on a 'Tram-Boat' to Williamstown.
- Provided accommodation, dinner and breakfast for 80 cyclists taking part in 'Lions Ride For Sight'.

2007/2008

- Celebrated 10th Anniversary in Poowong Public Hall. 160 people attended 20 Lions Clubs were represented.
- Ran the Australia Day event at Loch Reserve.

2009

- Contributed significant emergency response to the bush fires in our Lions District.
- Supported the Pakenham Lions Club with a 'Need for Feed' fundraiser.
- Received the Best District Lions Club Award.

2012

- Refurbishment of our new catering caravan.

2016

- Supported the first 'Poowong Family Fun Day'.

2017

- Formalised our support for the Poowong Family Fun day.

This overview of twenty years can't possibly capture the fun and laughter of the club, the Tail Twisting antics, the banter in the catering van, the bustling around bbq's in 'Harold's Shed' or the enduring relationships formed with each other and the Market stallholders. These are all part of our memories tonight which will continue to shape and evolve the Strzelecki Lions Club into the future.