

How can we involve youths in our Club projects?

Lion Geoff of West Pennant Hills-Cherrybrook wrote about their recent success in one such project.

They found out that some Year 11 students were keen to do some community work as part of their school project as they were required to do at least 5 hours unpaid work for the community.

So Geoff's Club offered to supervise and involve them in their charity raffle sales. They sold as many tickets as possible and excelled in doing just that with pride. They said that they enjoyed the experience and were impressed with the purpose of the Lion's raffle project.

They wanted to do another shift on the raffle and would look at their Saturday morning schedule to fit it in. Although they both played sport on Saturday, they believed that they could arrange squeeze some time to help out.

Lion Geoff recommends that the Club to present each student with a Certificate of Appreciation and this would be placed on their school notice board and be used for an item in their school magazine. This will generate goodwill and publicity for Lions. The students could also be asked to give a talk on their experience while championing the Lions motto "We Serve" .

Lion Geoff regards this initiative has excellent potential as many Clubs could use some of their community projects to 'tap into' the youth in our schools and generate good exposure for local Lions Clubs. This idea could drive as well as build interest and awareness that Lions can provide young people with excellent opportunities to build up their self confidence, encourage self development in community service and grow leadership skills.

Lion Geoff says, "If we show interest in young people, they will show interest in us. If there is widespread interest in this initiative the future growth of Lions in this country could be huge."

When working with children and youths, Club President Mohan cautions the need for appropriate Police checks and the necessity of having consent forms completed before any photos of minors can be published.