

N5 Convention 2014 Recap Prologue

By now, the long awaited N5 Convention has come and gone. For me, a Lions leader who has been deeply involved in the two years of planning of the event through to the final conduct of the three-day convention, it has been an incredibly invaluable experience - one that I will cherish for the rest of my life. I am thankful to the N5 Lions for their trust and giving me this marvellous opportunity to preside over the convention as District Governor.



For many conventioners, it was an enjoyable and memorable event. In droves, they came up to me to congratulate me and my team, expressing how thankful they were. Inevitably, there were a few others who pinpointed on what shortcomings they found and passed on their disappointment.

The preparations began as Sydney Chinese Lions were voted in as the Hosting Club for Convention 2014 at the N5 Lithgow Convention in 2012. Throughout the two years in the lead up to the convention, we have seen a number of major changes and additions to the Hosting Committee. At the time of the convention, the Committee comprised dedicated members from several Lions Clubs including Sydney Chinese, Baulkham Hills, Castle Hill, Crestwood, Epping Eastwood, Sydney Executive Business and West Pennant Hills-Cherrybrook. It was a truly inclusive Hosting Committee drawing expertise from a wide spectrum of Lions Clubs in the vicinity of the convention venue - the Castle Hill RSL Club.

On 14-16 November 2014, the convention was conducted in earnest. In his Formal Vote of

Thanks on the final day, PDG Nigel Jeny provided a succinct account of the proceedings:

"I am here representing you the Conventioners to thank District Governor Anthony, Convention Chair Kevin and the Organising Committee for all their hard work in making this a memorable 201N5 Convention.

There have been many highlights, but due to time restraints I will only mention a few.

It started on Friday, Lion's Lady Judith Dunn's interesting talk about the history of the Castle Hill area. The Flag Ceremony was a tribute to the history and diversity of our community and neighbours. The nine colourful and energetic Chinese Dancing Lions depicted Endurance and Long-lasting; saluting the Lions Family of our District.

The Friday evening took off with the performance of the Castle Hill RSL Youth Wind Orchestra - 68 in number - directed by James Brice. Who will forget the young vocalist, Jess Scott, singing "I Still Call Australia Home?"

On Saturday morning PDG Bob Korotcoff gave us the latest improvements in insurance. Yes Bob, you will always have

**Lions Clubs International
District 201 N5
Convention 2014**



**14, 15 & 16
November 2014**

at Castle Hill RSL Club

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friends in N5.

We heard District and Multiple District Chairpersons talk about their portfolios.

On Saturday afternoon, Beyondblue's Morag Jones, advised us on the need to spread the word of help - to make a difference to people suffering from a mental illness.

We congratulate those Lions who stood for election and congratulate these future leaders of our District. DG Elect Joanne Sim spoke of involvement, the Family of Lions and the ripples that turn into waves of positive energy.

Next year we will all be 'Doing Time on Norfolk Island'. You saw the antics of a Convict Gang but there is so much more to see and experience on their beautiful island.

On Saturday evening, we enjoyed the dinner and entertainment of not one, but two pipe bands. Presentations were made to our generous host - Castle Hill RSL and the other principal sponsors of the convention.

Sunday's early breakfast saw DG Elect Joanne explain why her adventures in the Antarctica were extended. Joanne's slides showed the inquisitive penguins and the vast frozen ice



Drapes with Lions Emblem at Castle Hill RSL

floes and icebergs and their ship stuck fast in the ice.

Our Remembrance Ceremony was moving and solemn.

This was followed by Presentations given by



Lions N5 Convention 2014 Banner at the RSL

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Council Chairperson Warren Latham, Leo of the Year Joel Pattinson-Cashman and Wallaby Matt Dunning. Then came the fabulous closing event featuring the 'Castle Hill RSL Friday Night LIVE Big Band'.

Fellow Lions, please join me in thanking District Governor Anthony, Convention Chair Kevin and their Organising Team by acclamation."

After the convention, even though there were very many favourable feedbacks, I received three complaints. They were all directed to our requesting speakers/presenters to prematurely discontinue. I regret all the inconvenience caused to the speakers/presenters in question.

However, I wish to stress two critical points: (1) At N5 Convention 2014, **ALL** speakers/presenters were given their **FULL** length of allocated time as published in the Convention Booklet, **ONLY** those who exceeded their time allowance were asked to discontinue. (2) As a result of responsible time keeping, all the segments of the convention were implemented as planned. On top of this, **ALL** District Chairpersons and Multiple District Chairpersons who wished to present their portfolios had the op-



Lions at N5 Convention 2014

portunity to do so for a prescribed duration of five minutes each. There were no less than twelve of them. Clearly, if speakers/presenters were allowed to carry on for as long as they liked, it would have been at the expense of those who were at the back of the queue and these would have missed out altogether. I honestly believe that *Having a Fair Go for ALL* is the best yardstick to employ while tackling this very sensitive issue at conventions. I thank Lion Anthony Jackson of Epping Eastwood Lions for helping us with the time keeping task and for his courage and integrity in striking the gong whenever time was up.

On the other hand, I cite below some of the very positive feedback which came our way.

"I totally support your views and explanation (not that one was necessary but you graciously



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Parading the Lions, Lioness and Leo Flags



The Lions, Lioness & Leo Flags Saluting the Guests

offer one) on this matter of time. The time is not there for indulgence, it is there to be shared and utilised for the benefit of all." - VDG2 Elect Ron Gattone

"Re: Your comments about presenters going over time. I apologise for being one of the culprits. However it was a first time experience for me and I learned a few points. I hope that you haven't received criticism for doing the right thing and keeping to time. In fact the positive side to the issue is that everyone remembers the Nurses' Scholarship Foundation presentation. What more could I wish for?"
Lion Helen Rae, Chairperson, Lions Nurses' Scholarship Foundation

"From our time at the convention we would rate it as one of the best District Conventions we have attended. It was great 'COMING HOME'". PDG Patrick McAppion

"I reckon I might have enjoyed myself as much as you, however, I didn't put anywhere the effort you put into such a GREAT CONVENTION, it's a pleasure to SERVE in DEDICATION!" President Ken Button of Lugarno Lions

"Just a thank you from Ern & I on our District Convention. WOW! the entertainment was definitely special and I am so pleased all went well for you. You and Emma were very gracious hosts and we thank you for a lovely and enjoyable weekend." PDG Beryl Payne

"Yes, I enjoyed all of the convention, that included the talks. One doesn't get that here [Norfolk], so it is all interesting to me, and a way to learn as well. It helps to keep me stimulated by new things, and to keep interested." Lion Jan Saal of Arthurs Vale Lions, Norfolk Island



Conventioners at the Opening Ceremony
A Lion member said he was disappointed at the **low** number of Lions present. Are you?

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With the numerous segments planned and implemented in a three-day convention, it is inevitable that some of the proceedings will please many while others cause disappointment. In our final analysis, we believe it's best for us to put into practice what we often read in our Lions Code of Ethics: ... *Be careful with our criticism and liberal with our praise; To build up and not destroy!*

If one feels one can organise a better convention, I encourage them to come forward to take up the challenge of organising one of our future conventions.



All in all, like many conventioners, I rate our N5 Convention 2014 a high nine out of a total of ten. I am grateful to the Hosting Committee for putting together and pulling off such a fabulous event. On behalf of all conventioners and N5 Lions, I thank them heartily for their time, efforts and contributions.

It is my intention to provide a more detailed account of what occurred on each of the three days of the convention. So if you are interested, watch this space!

By Lion Anthony Cheung



An Appreciative Audience