

The Lions Club of Canberra Belconnen was formed on 30th November 1970 under the sponsorship of the Lions Club of Canberra Metropolitan. The Club received its Charter on 27th February 1971, from the hands of the then District Governor, George Cooper of Dubbo. The Club is #672 in the Australian Order of Lions. The Club held its meetings at the Western Districts Rugby Union Club. Despite having a small membership and no money, the Club got away to a good start by raising its first funds from the sale of 27 dozen Christmas Cakes. The Club took off in the Lion's year of 1971-72 with the establishment of a pattern of involvement in local, National and International community activities, which has continued to this day.

The Club has actively supported the National fund raising programs for Christmas Cakes, Lion Mints and Christmas Seals. In addition, the Club is an active participant in the International, National, combined Districts and District activities such as Youth Exchange, Youth of the Year, recycling of spectacles and postage stamps, the Save Sight & Public Health Care Foundations, Christmas party in conjunction with the Down Syndrome Association, Identikid, Hearing Dogs, Trivia Night, the Hall Markets (in support of Hartley Lifecare), RAAF Memorial Grove, the Toy Expo, ADFA Oratory Competition, Lions Peace Poster Competition, the Canberra Times Fun Run, the Pegasus Christmas Party, Breakfast with the Balloons the Belconnen Mall Christmas Parade, Adopt-A-Road, Operation Friendship, Road Safety, Sail training for youth, vocational exchange for the handicapped and many, many more Lions projects dealing with the aged, youth, education, disabled, environment, sport and the arts. The Club is also a regular contributor to the Lions Clubs International Foundation and the Australian Lions Foundation.

In December 1976 Belconnen sponsored the formation of the Lions Club of Canberra Ginninderra who received its Charter in March 1977. In October 2002 Belconnen initiated the Gungahlin Branch Club, resulting in the formation of the Lions Club of Gungahlin who received its Charter on 25 March 2003.

Over the past 39 years 270 Lions have been members of our Club. The total years of service by the current 39 members is 775 years. There are currently 18 members of the Club who have more than 20 years service and who are Life Members. An examination of Club records reveals that donations over \$550,000 have been made over that time and, in addition, the members have contributed 60,000 hours of community service.

The District, Multiple District and International organisations have been well served by members of the Club in every year and in many offices, including the ultimate office of District Governor (four times). Club members have occupied District and Multiple District Cabinet positions, and have also been Foundation Directors or Trustees of our various Foundations. Club representation on District Cabinet has ranged from one member in 1971-72 to a record seven portfolios held in 1975-76. Interest in the affairs of Lions above club level is amply demonstrated by Club representation at all District Conventions, all but one Multiple District Conventions and nine International Conventions since 1970. The Club has also been the Host Club for 2 District and 1 Multiple District Convention.

Of special note is the moral and physical support given by members' wives and partners. All members of the Belconnen Lions family have always been willing to assist with projects and fund raising activities and they also arranged activities of their own, particularly in support of Miss Personality candidates.

The Belconnen Lions have been active in many service projects, fund raising activities, welfare donations, social events and other achievements and have received recognition through their many awards for outstanding community service. Belconnen Lions continue to be very active locally, nationally, and internationally in community service and welfare projects and fund raising events.