

LION'S FEATURE

pride to warkworth



Team work and dedication deliver valuable legacy

The collective power of Lions has already left a lasting legacy in Warkworth, but the dedicated members of the world's largest service organisation continue to work towards improving lives and the community.

Formed in 1917 by founder Chicago man Melville Jones, Lions boasts 1.4 million members in around 200 countries and is the only service group in the world to be invited to join the United Nations. In New Zealand 400 clubs contribute an estimated \$100 million to charitable causes.

Warkworth has both Warkworth Lions Club which caters for men and women, and the women-only Kowhai Lions. Although Warkworth Lions has consistently maintained around 34 members it's keen to attract more.

One of three past district governors in the group, Rob Ewenson says there is as much to be gained as to be given in the role and the long service of many members is testament both to their dedication and the organisation.

"Lions is a great training ground for people seeking leadership experience or new skills. There's no compulsion to stay, but many people do because they like what it offers. Wearing a



Long-serving Warkworth Lions and their current president, jointly represent more than 230 years of service. Pictured from left, Bruce Wilson, Dave Taylor, David Little, Peter Bishop, president David Page, Bruce Clegg, Les Buckton and John Frogley. (Absent 46-year member Brian Carley.)

Lions badge can make you instantly welcome around the world," he says.

Registered nurse Angela Taylor recently became Warkworth Lions only current female member, after her husband Trevor joined when they moved here three years ago.

She says it's been a good way to get to know the community and she was keen to contribute after experiencing the good work and "genuine, down-to-earth" nature of club members.

Lions' efforts can be found in numerous community assets including the riverbank playground, Warkworth Wharf, Totara Park Hall, a boardwalk at Kauri Park Museum

and the Omaha restoration project, and furnishings in the new Mahurangi College Hall. The club also maintains Kawau Island's Camp Bentzon.

"Club members have spent over 500 hours this year alone, renovating, repairing and helping build new facilities including two new lodges," Rob says.

Other assistance has included funding digital talking machines for the blind, converting can tabs and wine bottle tops into cash for the Kidney Kids Support Group, buying a specialised wheelchair for a Snells Beach child and delivering free firewood to needy pensioners.

The club already has a busy diary for the year ahead, including work on the

riverside enhancement project to the cement works, building a bridge by the sewage treatment plant, helping develop Omaha quarry gardens, getting involved with Springboard, and raising funds to buy an insulin pump for a severely diabetic girl.

Members also take pride in Lions' ability to respond instantly with direct aid to people in natural disasters, having generated more than \$1.5 million in local and international contributions for Christchurch and provided funding and three community meeting houses for Samoa since the tsunami.

For membership enquiries contact Gavin Brough 425 5495.



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Community invited to fundraising walk

Walkers of all ages are encouraged to put their best foot forward in Warkworth Lion's 5km Heart Foundation fundraising walk starting at Shoesmith Domain on Sunday November 13 from 10am.

The popular event was started six years ago by former Warkworth Lion John Tapp who had benefited from life-saving heart surgery and continues to support the cause through an Orewa walk.

The Warkworth route will be the same as in previous years, starting and finishing at Shoesmith Domain and including the riverbank walkway to Lucy Moore Park and a loop through Warkworth streets. Participants of all ages are welcome and are encouraged to bring hats, sunscreen and water bottles.

Entry forms are available from Curves Gym, Not Just Hats and Warkworth i-Site. Entry fees \$10 per adult, \$5 per child or \$20 per family. All entrants will be eligible for official event certificates and be in to win a number of spot prizes.

Lions will also hold a Heart Foundation Collection outside New World on Friday November 11.

Proceeds will go to the Heart Foundation and its work in promoting awareness, funding research and advocating for those at risk. While deaths from heart disease have halved in the last 40 years it remains the single biggest killer in New Zealand.

Info: Contact Rob Ewenson 425 7281 or visit www.warkworthnz.co.nz for a map of the walk.



From left, Christine Rauner, Warkworth Lion's Rob Ewenson and Rae Ward put their best foot forward for the Heart Foundation cause.

Grab a ticket

Warkworth Lion's second major fundraiser for community projects this year means major prizes for locals. First prize in the raffle is a car trailer, six-burner barbecue, half a pig, half a lamb and a "bag of goodies" and a second winner will also receive half a pig, half a lamb and a their own "bag of goodies". Tickets will be available from Lions members and outlets throughout Warkworth until November 29.

The Warkworth Lion's Heart Foundation walk is proudly supported by Curves, Mahurangi Matters, Mahurangi Sport & Recreation Collective, Not Just Hats, SJ Web Design, Waitemata PHO and Warkworth i-SITE

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Lion's efforts return rich rewards

Warkworth's John Frogley has been a Lion for almost half a century, joining just seven years after the service group was established in New Zealand in 1955.

Through Lions clubs in Takapuna, Northcote and Warkworth, he's taken on every role, including president, and in 1988-89 became a district governor, responsible for 67 clubs. Helping others comes naturally to the now 83-year-old, who says he is following the example of his community-minded father.

"I get the satisfaction of helping other people, that's my passion," he says.

A scout master and ARP (Air Raid Protection) volunteer warden during the war, John initially joined the Masons, but prefers the Lions' community-focus.

He says Lions let their actions do the talking, promoting causes, rather than themselves, which means the public aren't aware of the scope of their achievements, including establishing the New Zealand Liver Transplant Service in Auckland and Middlemore's intensive burns unit, as well as major contributions to Starship Children's Hospital. The group also works in tandem with numerous other organisations, boosting manpower

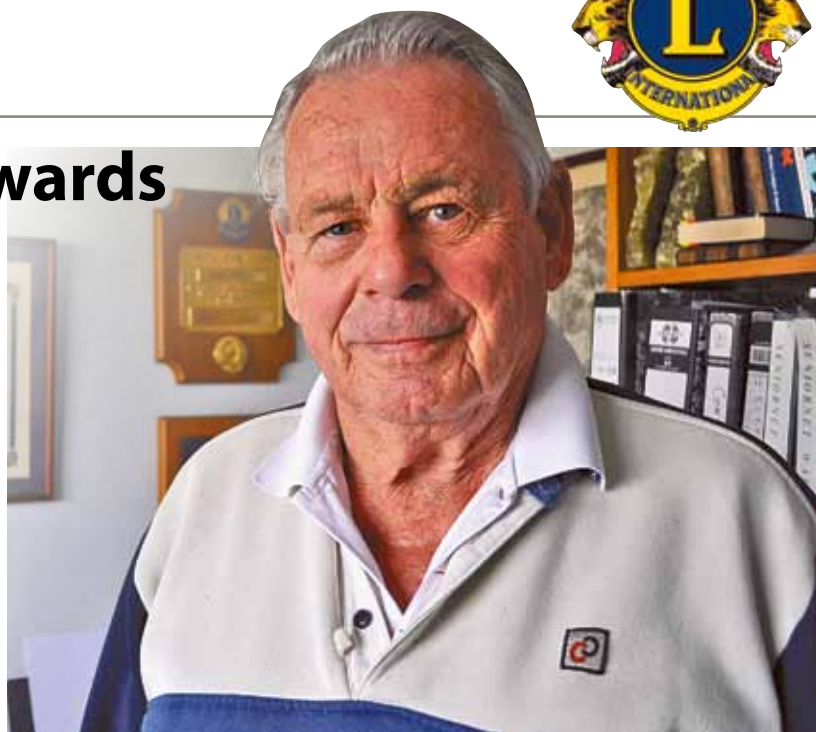
and funds to keep projects running year after year.

Although he's received a number of awards, including Lion's highest honour, the Melville Jones Award, John says the real rewards are the outcomes of Lions' work, which range from young cancer sufferers enjoying a break at Camp Quality to providing a specialised pool for a boy with a serious bone disease and construction of community facilities like Warkworth wharf.

John says it was inspiring to travel around as governor and see the innovative ways in which clubs were helping their communities and he's enjoyed working with like-minded people. He says organising is his strength, but he is still hands-on, including pitching in recently to split firewood at Camp Bentzon and regularly working with a small team to run Lion's riverside market. In total he's contributed hundreds of thousands of hours and as current secretary, still fields calls most days, but he says there's a strict rule that members only contribute as they are able.

"We state most emphatically that your family comes first, your business comes second and Lions comes third."

One of the founders of Mitre 10, John



John Frogley's dedication to Lions has seen him play a part in helping many thousands of people around the country and the world.

has balanced his service with owning a busy hardware store in Ponsonby and having a family with two children.

member, a Jane Gifford volunteer, secretary and trustee of the Warkworth Community Trust Birthing Unit and runs a business selling Noni juice.

Visionary giving goes global

Lions has been a committed supporter of the blind internationally since 1925 when Helen Keller challenged the organisation's members to become "knights of the blind" in a crusade against darkness. Their response, SightFirst has since worked on numerous projects aimed at preventing blindness, restoring eyesight and improving eye care for hundreds of millions of people worldwide making it the world's largest contribution to the cause. Since 1990, two SightFirst fundraising campaigns have raised \$500 million to help provide vision for all and NZ clubs continue to be committed supporters of the Royal NZ for the Blind.

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Youth development a key focus

Lions are looking to the future by investing heavily in youth through programmes that boost their potential and self-esteem.

Lions Club member and Mahurangi College teacher Les Cave says that when it comes to youth a lot of the money is directed locally, enabling motivated youngsters to challenge themselves and develop leadership skills.

Clubs have raised more than \$200,000 collecting old coins and unwanted foreign currency for their Heads Up for Kids initiative, offering outdoor education programmes and scholarships to youth. Mahurangi College student Michael-Lydia Winiana is among recent recipients, winning a video camera and 10-day Spirit of Adventure voyage by promoting herself and the fundraising programme through Facebook.

A sailing novice, she joined 30 other trainees, learning sailing and team skills, taking a turn at a night watch and seeing dolphins and orcas along the way. Elected first mate by her fellow trainees, Michael-Lydia also won the Amo Kura Award for community spirit and organisers reported that she was one of the best trainees they had ever had.

She says she's grateful for the trip, which taught her a lot and was an experience she'd recommend to anyone. It's not the first time she's benefited through Lions, having won this year's northern regional competition for the Lions Speechmaker Contest, in which the national winner receives a trip to the United States.

Lions also teams up with other service groups to offer four partially-funded Spirit of NZ trips to Mahurangi College students each year and provides other college



Mahurangi College's Michael-Lydia, making the most of her Spirit of New Zealand adventure.

support, including science fair and speech-making prizes, funds for school facilities and more.

Schools further benefit from the Lions Quest Life Skills programme, which arms teachers with training in life skills education, character development, drug and violence prevention, to empower five to 14-year-olds to make positive choices.

The Warkworth club is also currently seeking sponsors

for prizes in its popular Take a Kid Fishing event which gives hundreds of young children and their caregivers an experience they might otherwise not get.

Meanwhile, Lions support of the KidsCan charity has helped it provide thousands of children in more than 200 low decile schools with shoes, raincoats and food improving their self-esteem and ability to learn.

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