MEDIA RELEASE
26 April 2013

61st LIONS NATIONAL CONVENTION, CANBERRA
KEYNOTE SPEAKER – DICK SMITH

Dick Smith, the eminent businessman, philanthropist, adventurer and entrepreneur, will be the keynote speaker at the 61st Lions National Convention in Canberra (26-29 April 2013).

Dick Smith’s address will take place on Saturday 27 April at 11.30am at the National Convention Centre.

Dick Smith will address more than a thousand Lions members from around Australia who will have travelled to Canberra for the four days of the Convention which is being held in Canberra to coincide with and celebrate the Centenary of the nation’s capital.

As a passionate Australian, Dick Smith will use his Keynote Address as an opportunity to communicate his belief that for the sake of our children and grandchildren we should move to an economic system that does not depend for its viability on perpetual growth in population and the consumption of resources and energy. “We can still have growth”, says Dick, “but growth in quality of life and efficiencies. A world we would be proud to leave to future generations”.

Dick admits this shift is a challenge and will explain why he believes our Prime Minister and Federal Opposition Leader are not game to publicly state that it’s not possible to have perpetual population and economic growth in a finite world.

In his address, Dick will also ask publisher Rupert Murdoch to follow in the footsteps of his late mother, Dame Elisabeth Murdoch, and become a public philanthropist. Dick says, “I will be asking Rupert Murdoch to join inspirational Australian billionaire, Twiggy Forrest, in signing the ‘Bill Gates and Warren Buffet Giving Pledge’ where wealthy billionaires primarily in the United States – some 26 already – have agreed to give at least half of their fortune when they die to worthwhile causes”.

We can look forward to Dick Smith, “telling us how it is” in his address this Saturday.

Media is welcome to attend Dick Smith’s Keynote Address at the National Convention Centre (from 11.30am).

Dick’s presentation will also be available on www.dicksmithpopulation.com.au following his address.

MEDIA WISHING TO ATTEND SHOULD REGISTER BY CALLING DIANE MICHAEL ON 0409015685

Some Interesting Facts about Dick Smith:
- One of Australia’s most recognised individuals
- Dick and wife, Pip, donate more than $1 million each year to philanthropic causes
- Founder of Australian Geographic
- Adventurer, mountaineer, bush walker and aviator
- Member of Australian Sceptics
- Former Chairman of the Civil Aviation Safety Authority
- Former Chairman of the National Council for the Centenary of Federation
- Ambassador for the Council for Aboriginal Reconciliation
- Passionate supporter of environmental and conservation efforts
- Chairman of the Australian Geographic Society since 1995 to 2006
- 1986 Australian of the Year
- 1999 Officer of the Order of Australia (AO)
- 2012 Consulting Professor to the Department of Biology, School of Humanities & Sciences, Stanford University

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Facts about Lions Australia
As Australia’s leading service organisation Lions has 1300 clubs in Australia with around 30,000 members and is focused on three key areas of service.

- Community - which involves working with the disadvantaged, supporting local programs, Driver Reviver, maintaining parks and playgrounds, selling Christmas Cakes and Mints, running BBQs and participating in special events.
- Health and Medical Research which includes Childhood Cancer Research, Prostate Cancer Research, Children’s Mobility, Eye Health and Hearing Dogs.
- Disaster and Emergency Response – which involves support efforts during crisis events like the floods in SEQ, Victoria, Northern NSW, and bushfires in Victoria, Tasmania, WA and NSW.

100% of all funds raised by members and clubs go to the work of Lions from grass roots level to the work of the Lions Foundations.

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