



# 2015 MD CONVENTION NEWSLETTER

April 2015.

Greetings to all in the Lions Family.

Just 4 weeks to go before we say Hi to you. Remember that **ALL** hospitality bookings cease on 10th April, so get yours in right now! You can still register for the Convention after that but no functions. The caterers are already tearing their hair out with all the food restrictions asked for.

Planning is all in place and the details are coming together nicely. We have put in a special order to the weatherman for a lovely day on the Sunday for the BBQ in Civic Park, and he's assured us that he will do his best. The Council gardeners told us that they would try to match the display of 23 years ago, but that also depends on weather. Were you there when the gardens next to the City Hall were all purple and gold? That's what they're trying for again.

Our people have fielded quite a few enquiries during the past couple of weeks, hopefully to your satisfaction. Mail delays caused some angst but I think most problems have been sorted out.

- **Transport Services** - Trains to Newcastle terminate at Hamilton. Buses meet each train and the system seems to be working but with limited set-downs (Wickham, Civic and Newcastle Stations). Other than that, there is the normal bus services from various suburbs around Newcastle, and the free inner-city bus service during the day. ALL stop opposite the Civic Theatre, and the return pick-up is 130 metres along Hunter Street.
- **Airport** - Bus services are available from the airport to the city, and some hotels have shuttle services. Be aware that a taxi could cost as much as \$100. NO, we are not running a shuttle bus to/from the airport, and NO, we could not arrange a discount.
- **Registration** – Convention Registration is still free. Hospitality is what costs, because we are charged by the suppliers. NO, we don't make money on it, we just cut even, and YES, we have got some sponsorship that reduced the charge to you. YES, we do have to stop bookings on the 10th to allow caterers to fix all your dietary needs. Registration will be in the City Hall on Thursday 30th April in the afternoon, and in the Civic Theatre after that day but at restricted times only. There will be signs.
- **Extra Excursion** - An additional short Tour was added late and is scheduled for Saturday 2 May, 10am departure and return by 3.15pm. Cost \$37 pp and includes a guided tour of Dobell House, entry into the Dobell Arts Festival and a light lunch at the Festival. Maximum 45 seats available.
- **Convention Program** - A draft convention program is on the Newcastle Convention Page on the Lions Australia website. It is a living document and will change to suit circumstances. The Sergeant At Arms will give daily updates at the Convention.
- **Park & Ride Facility** – a shuttle bus will operate between Bar Beach Car Park and City Hall/Civic Theatre each morning and afternoon. No bookings are needed.
- **Event Bus Passes** - These must be pre-purchased and cover 3 nights - Friday /Saturday /Sunday - but only from within the free bus zone precinct. NO, we will not be picking up at individual hotels, but will be using normal bus stops.
- **Volunteers** - We will have a limited number of volunteers on hand to help with your queries and problems. Their duties are laid down by the COC and don't include lifting or carrying. Our OH&S person would be horrified.
- See you in Newcastle, just after Anzac Day. Travel safely !!!!!