

Recognition of the Traditional Owners of Land

Welcome to country

Acknowledgement of country

Background

It is becoming customary in Australia now that all meetings should commence with a recognition of the traditional owners or custodians of the land at which the meeting is being held. As Lions is seen as one of the leading community based service groups with strong ethical values and community involvement and our desire to increase our recognition of diversity in our community.

Where possible, particularly at significant events such as a Multiple District Convention, an appropriate representative of the local indigenous people will be requested to conduct a 'Welcome to country'.

If this is not possible, the Multiple District has adopted the policy of acknowledging the traditional owners of the land when conducting its meetings.

This policy applies to:

- MD 201 Council meetings
- MD 201 Conventions
- MD 201 Committee meetings

Although clubs and districts are encouraged to adopt similar policies, this is a matter for them.

The simple suggested form of words is:

"We acknowledge the [LOCAL NAME] (e.g.: Gadigal people, of the Eora nation) as the Traditional Owners of the land where we now meet and recognise their continuing connection to land, waters and culture. We pay our respects to their Elders past, present and emerging."

Where the name of the local people is not known, a simple statement such as:

"We acknowledge the Indigenous custodians of the land on which we now meet and recognise their continuing connection to land, waters and culture. We pay our respects to their Elders past, present and emerging."