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## Bridgetown Lions

On Lions Awareness Day, the 6<sup>th</sup> March 2021, Lions hard working volunteers held ‘sausage sizzles’ at hardware stores all around Australia with the idea of letting communities know more about the role Lions Australia has as a service club in the community.

On that day the Bridgetown Lions held a ‘sausage sizzle’ at Mitre 10. It was not only a good public relations day it proved also to be a good fund raiser.

The sausage sizzle was so well received and successful it was decided by the club members to hold the event on the first Saturday of each month as an ongoing fundraiser.

Nicole Hegney is the President of Bridgetown Lions; she explains the role of the Club in Bridgetown. “Lions have twenty-two members in Bridgetown, two of those are life members, and our role in the community is becoming increasingly important.

“We have a few fundraising schemes in town. Covid-19 certainly put a handbrake on our work but we are now ramping up again. We collect any old batteries, batteries from toys, games, phones, cars or trucks.

“Lions also run Containers for Change collections, we have several collection ‘Pods’ in town, currently there is one at the skate park, the caravan park, the river park and the Greenbushes pool. These pods are proving to work well, the pods are collected on a regular basis and taken to my house where we hold a sorting day with the Lions members separating the plastic from the cans and the bottles.

“We also run a food van, where we make the best hamburgers in town. You would have seen the Lions caravan at events like the Bridgetown Show and the Blues.

“All the money we raise is spent in the community. For more than ten years the Lions Club have given a donation to the local schools; Bridgetown Primary School, Bridgetown High School, St Brigits and Greenbushes Primary, based on the number of students enrolled.

“The bursaries vary from gift vouchers which are spent in the town, to prizes for students who do well or for financial support. How the money we give to the schools is gifted is determined by each school.

“Lions have also been running a ‘seniors picnic’ for a number of years, this is where we take a bus load of seniors out for a day to have a picnic and delight them with surprise locations.

“Lions Australia work is also varied, it may be in providing emergency relief during natural disasters or supporting farming communities during drought, supporting critical medical research into Lions Save Sight, childhood cancers, diabetes, hearing, and Alzheimer’s or working on local environmental programs, the work of Lions members is valued, and critical.

“The Lions Cancer Institute support ‘Skin Cancer Screening Mobile Units’. These vans travel around throughout Australia visiting towns to set up as a mobile skin cancer detection centre, to date around 17,000 Australians have used this service.

“More recently Lions have given financial support to people in Kalbarri that were affected by Cyclone Seroja, and the fire ravaged hills district north of Perth. This is one of our major projects this year.

“If you have any old batteries you don’t want, or containers for change you would like to donate to the Lions our members are all too happy to pick them up, you can contact us by emailing [pnhegney@bigpond.com](mailto:pnhegney@bigpond.com) so we can make arrangements.”

Look out for and support the ‘sausage sizzle’ at Mitre 10, the money raised always funds a worthwhile cause.

If you would like more information about Lions Club in Bridgetown or you would like to enquire about becoming a member, please email Nicole on [pnhegney@bigpond.com](mailto:pnhegney@bigpond.com) who will be only too pleased to hear from you.