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Newsletter from District Governor Rob Fowler to the Lions, Lionesses and Leos of District 410B, Southern Africa

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Jakaranda's electric wheels for Patrick!

Story by Lion Beryl Thompson



Patrick sitting proudly in his new electric wheelchair surrounded by a group of proud Pretoria Jakaranda Lions

Patrick Booyesen suffered an injury at birth which has left him disabled and wheelchair bound for the past 23 years

The **Pretoria Jakaranda Lions** visited the **Paul JungNickel Home for the Disabled** in the Willows, Pretoria, where Patrick lives, and presented him with a new electric wheelchair.

This gift from the Jakaranda Lions will make a huge difference in his life. His new wheelchair will give him mobility and so much more personal independence and freedom.

The home tries its best to give the residents a real sense of self worth by facilitating various work projects so that residents can feel active and productive. A successful workshop project for many years is the assembly of plastic funeral flower arrangements. It is always a fine balance to manage the quality and the quantity of the work within the production deadline. It is just amazing how the residents are able to successfully complete their work tasks despite the seriousness of their various handicaps.

Residents are rewarded with a small income for their time spent in the workshop.

Christof is a 48 year old resident who matriculated with 3 distinctions and has a B.Sc with honours in maths and science. While still in primary school he was diagnosed with motor-neuron disease which progressively affects the muscles and nervous system. Christof should now be in the prime of his life but is completely immobile except for his head. He wears a helmet with a stick attached and can type on his computer keyboard by moving his head.

Christof's computer allows him to do some programming and also communicate with the outside world. It is really difficult to see this highly intelligent person, who used to be a valuable employee in an architectural firm battle with such adversity, and yet not submit to his disability. He is certainly an inspiration to everyone that meets him.

Soon two other residents, **Neels** and **Hantie**, will be getting married. The happy couple just seem to radiate with love and devotion for each other. Their wedding will certainly be a special day for them and for the other resident's at the home. Love and affection knows no boundaries!

Although the needs of the residents are many, their complaints are few, or non-existent. Despite their obviously very difficult circumstances, they are always full of smiles - thanks, in part to the wonderful love and care provided by the staff and the home's sponsors.

The home is well run and it is a pleasure for the Jakaranda Lions to be involved with very special people like Patrick, Christof, Neels and Hantie - and their compassionate caregivers!

Amazing LIONS doing amazing service!



Upcoming Events

Please diarise the following Lions events:

8 - 11 February - "All Africa" Forum in Bulawayo
11 February - Alfa Romeo Classic Rally - Edenvale

10 March - Region 1 Buddy Day
 For details contact CCE Lion Tony Scheffel

24 March - Lions Operation BrightSight Boat Race at Zoo Lake

31 March - LC Nelspruit day trip to Maputo

21 April - Worldwide Induction Day

25 - 30 April - MD410 EGOLI 2007 CONVENTION at BIRCHWOOD CONFERENCE CENTRE - Boksburg

20 May - proposed **Cabinet and Club Officers** Training
3 June - proposed **Club President's Instruction Day**

June/July 2007 - International Convention



November 2007 - 35th ISAAME Forum - Colombo, Sri Lanka

LIONS WORLDWIDE INDUCTION DAY April 21, 2007

Bringing new Lions into a Club should be done with thought and care. To make planning easy and the event memorable, Lions Clubs International will provide a

Lions Worldwide Induction Day Planning Guide and Certificates and Press Releases to honour new members and publicize the event.

Start to work now on your membership growth plans to hopefully coincide with Lions Worldwide Induction Day.

Zone Chairmen will be contacting each club soon so that we can effectively plan for this event. We can either have a special function on the 21st April or plan a special event for this purpose during the Egoli 2007 Convention.

Please contact your Zone Chairman with your thoughts and/or suggestions so that we can make this a successful event in District 410B!

Take Advantage of the Club Renewal program for 2007!

International President Jimmy M. Ross has challenged clubs to complete a **Club Renewal analysis**. It is an opportunity for club members to review their activities, procedures and operations and identify new ways to re-energize their clubs. Upon completion of the **Club Renewal analysis**, clubs will be mailed a **banner patch**.

http://www.lionsclubs.org/EN/content/news_news_online.shtml

LCI EXCHANGE RATE = 7,03 February 2007

We hope that your District 410B newsletter will continue to stimulate your service activities and encourage a flow of interesting information of relevance to Lions.

Kindly forward any articles and best quality .jpg or .tif images for publication to DG Rob Fowler at rob@iafrica.com and we'll do our best to get them circulated in future editions.



Lions Quarterly - January

Watch the video of Lions at work around the World!

The latest "Lions Quarterly" is now available at

<http://www.lionsclubs.org/EN/content/lqn/lq.html>

Alternatively, if you would like to receive a copy for your Club on DVD contact CS Lion Pam Scheffel and we'll get one to you as soon as possible.