



Leadership is not about the Leader

As the owner of an international cargo company, I understand all the skills, resources and assets required to successfully compete in the marketplace and deliver goods on time.

How it all comes together is the result of planning, communication and execution. It happens by design, not by accident. It takes many people working together. As the owner, I am the leader. But I understand that every employee is important. Every worker has a job to do. Everyone on the payroll has a skill to contribute.

As president of Lions Clubs International, I lead 1.35 million Lions. But I understand that leadership is about ensuring the full participation and encouraging the enthusiasm of all Lions. Every Lion matters. We've been able to save millions from blindness, deliver food and water to multitudes of disaster victims and teach millions of youth life skills because Lions have believed in service and believed in the necessity of action.

It's been said that a good leader inspires others with confidence in him while a great leader inspires others with confidence in themselves. This year I want club presidents to really step forward and inspire Lions to completely believe in themselves, to believe in the power of courage, commitment and action. I am asking Lions to step forward and take advantage of LCI's many valuable leadership training tools. Our online Leadership Resource Centre can enhance the efforts of Lions leaders

at the club, zone and district levels. We must identify leaders among us in our Lions family and then they must cultivate their potential through training.

This year I have been conducting many president-meets-the-presidents meetings. I want to listen to Lions, learn from you, motivate you and be motivated by you. As your international president, I have the duty to support Lions of the world, to listen to your needs, to show you I care, to make your service easier and to help your dreams come true. That's why I am meeting with presidents and why one of my themes is "my club, my family".



President Wing-Kun Tam

If I am unable to visit your Lions family, I want you to know I believe in you and your capabilities as Lions. Together we can continue to change the lives of millions of people.

Wing-Kun Tam

Lions Clubs International President

Leos: special members of the Lions family

I believe our clubs will prosper if we treat members like family, and we must be extra attentive to very special members of our Lions family: Leos.

We must support and guide them, care about them and love them. The relationship of Lions and Leos is like a friendship. We want the best for them and we will respectfully work with them in service on an equal basis.

I am proud to be an honorary Leo, proud to be the "world's oldest Leo," as I like to call myself. In Seattle at our international convention I was privileged to speak at the Global Leo Conference and meet Leos from around the world. Do you ever get a little down or discouraged about the state of the world? Then spend some time with Leos. Their idealism is contagious. They bring a fresh energy to every endeavour. They will refresh our service mission as they grow into Lions.

It's important we serve together with Leos and not tell them

what to do. We are equal partners in service. Let us be mindful about respecting Leos and their ideas. Let us value their input and listen to what they say. We can mentor them and model a life of service.

This year in my travels I hope to meet with as many Leos as possible. I look forward to hearing their ideas and embracing their visions of service.

Lions Clubs International is supporting Leos in new and exciting ways. We will have a Leo e-clubhouse. I plan to hold a Leo/Lion summit next June at the international convention in Busan, Korea. Meanwhile, please believe in Leos and continue to serve with them. They bring many gifts to our clubs and communities and let's continue to appreciate their presence.

Dynamic Leo leaders instil pride in school

By Linda George

It isn't just those with age, experience and time on their hands who are willing and able to give back to the community. In Porirua, a group of young Leos are doing just that.

Established in 2009, the Aotea College Leo Club has had a hugely successful year under the inspiring leadership of president Daniel Albert and two equally enthusiastic vice presidents - Taelar Samuels and Te Kauri Hurst.

Daniel has been with the Club since its inception. He joined simply because he was pulled into it by some mates. But, he says, he quickly saw what Leos were offering to the community and society.

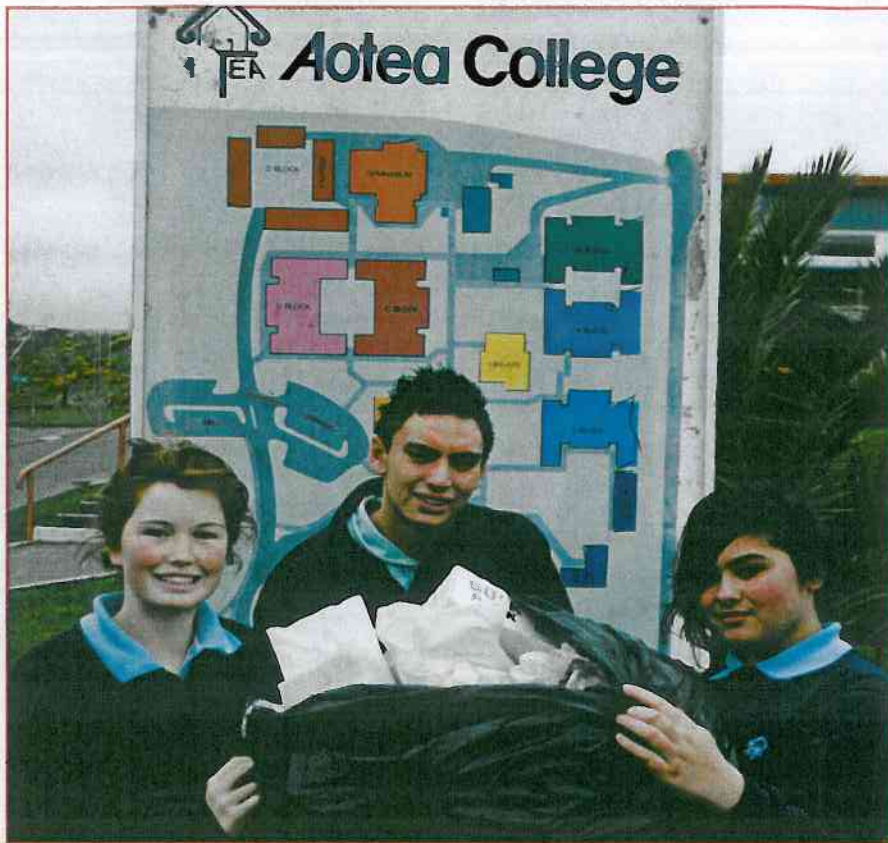
"I love giving back to the community, and society," he says.

Daniel's list of credentials is impressive. He is a national basketball referee; a surf lifeguard; a kapa haka tutor; a New Zealand waka ama rep (he was placed third individually in an international waka ama competition in Sacramento, USA, in 2008). He's also a New Zealand kayaking rep; a Wellington squash champion (placed third in Maori squash) and he was a finalist in the Wellington region's sports awards. He was also part of the organising crew for the 2010 Polyfest, a cultural extravaganza. Phew! You might wonder how he finds the time to fit school in to that lot.

One of the club's projects this year has been "Operation Fix It Up."

Initially the brainchild of vice-president Taelar, the idea of "tidying up the school" has grown somewhat.

"Our aim was to create school pride and unity - by getting teachers and other [non Leo] students involved," says Taelar. "We thought that if students were involved in cleaning up the school, then it would be less likely to be ruined - the students would feel a sense of ownership."



Hannah Corke and Eternity McLean help Daniel with a clean-up at Aotea College.

"The purpose of this, as well as fixing the school that was looking so run down, was to create school unity with not only their peers but with the teachers as well -and taking pride in the school," says Daniel.

"We, as a club, felt it was important to create unity and pride so we could change the negative view that the students have of their school. By using this project to help us do such a thing, we asked teachers and the principal to come on board and help out on some days to show the students that they were willing to start creating school unity and pride. We sought sponsorship from the local community like Westpac Porirua, Resene Paints, Waitangirua Lions (our sponsoring Lions club), Bunnings and Palmers, and we received a kind donation of \$200 which allowed us to buy our own

equipment like buckets and spades, shovels and other gardening tools.

Support from teaching staff has been significant and greatly appreciated. All members of the Maori class, for instance, took a period out once a week to participate in the operation - working together in the gardens and tidying up.

Teacher Anthony Urwin said Daniel, Taelar and Te Kauri were highly motivated young people who had inspired their peers to join Aotea College Leo Club.

"They are well organised and enthusiastic about their school environment and community. Operation Fix It Up is their project to make a difference and instil pride and care around their school - and to make others feel responsible for their



school community and be a place that they all want to be part of," he said. "I am really proud of them and their ideas bring a maturity that is beyond their years."

Teacher, careers adviser and Leos co-ordinator Pauline Muncey is happy to report that she has practically been made redundant by this year's enthusiastic Leos.

"Their whole motivation was to provide an opportunity that would involve all the kids in the school. They have been inspiring other young people - our Leo Club membership is growing and growing - because they are co-opting kids left, right and centre," says Ms Muncey. "They've picked it up and they're running. And that's what you want - these students are taking ownership of this and seeing that Leos gives them a mandate to do the things they want to do for the school and the wider community."

Pauline says her role is really to help pace things.

"They would be repairing the whole school, painting the entire school. They have some

wonderful ideas, but don't necessarily understand the politics of the world. We (Leos) have some funds, but I need them to understand and start working alongside property management - so that the funding is coming from the appropriate places.

"What is really nice to see is they are showing humility as well. They are not taking full credit for their projects - they're not seeing themselves as all important. They are liaising with other projects in the school that were already underway, such as the gardening club - and all working together."

And aside from the school getting spruced up, there have already been some unforeseen benefits coming through.

"This project has created a lot of confidence within people. When we are out doing work together, people who have never spoken out in groups before are speaking out, they are much more confident," says Taelar.

"I think this is what Lions hope for in terms of Leo Clubs providing an opportunity for young people to take on leadership roles,"

says Ms Muncey. "This is really their club. They told me I could retire - 'Miss, if you are too busy, we can do it', they said."

Daniel is very keen to host a New Zealand Leo Clubs Convention at Aotea College.

"I expressed my idea to president Bill (Thomas) of Waitangirua Lions and PDG Brian Grounds of District 202K - who is in charge of all Leo activities. I have received a response and both Bill and Brian are willing to support this. Brian likes my enthusiasm in hosting a national Leo Convention here."

"As a Leo Club president I have a vision that not only will 'we serve', but we will excel and go the extra mile and do something big, not only serving as a Leo, but as a person. Our Leos have the spirit of a Leo but the pride of a Lion. We are a pack. No one gets left behind - and we all move together."

Daniel has since joined Waitangirua Lions Club. His dual membership is probably a first for the District.

Leos learn to make a difference

"A Leo Club is a wonderful way for students to learn how to run their own meetings and take the offices of president, secretary and treasurer," says 202D Leos Advisor PDG Margaret Gregory. "They also meet other students from within the school, and learn to participate in discussion groups.

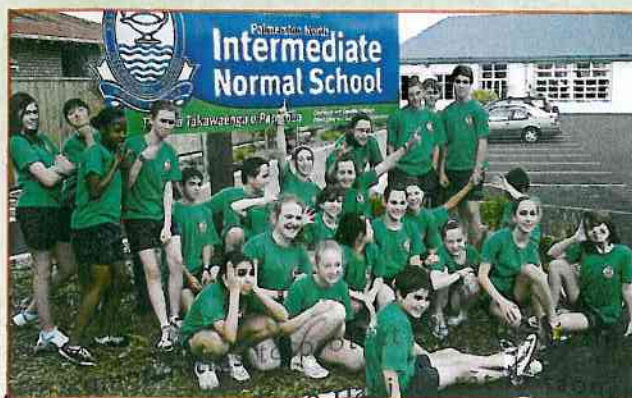
"This photo of a large group from our Leo Club at Palmerston North Intermediate Normal School was taken to put on the front cover of a calendar that the students have produced to raise funds to buy a defibrillator for the school. Our young Leos have formed committees for Heads Up for Kids old and foreign money collection, SPCA, and KanTabs. These committees have their own directors and in the calendar we have photos of the students presenting their collections to the various recipients.

"Leos have also helped Lions Clubs collect for Poppy Day and our Foodbank appeal. At school they have run sausages sizzles and have sold balloons and stickers for Youth Diabetes (Yellow Balloon Day). We have an almoner who remembers all birthdays with a handmade card and birthday wishes from us all. They also send cards out to students who have been away sick for a few meetings.

"The students have all made presentations to their various assemblies promoting Leos and what they can do within the

community both at school and outside. At the end of each term we have a pizza and chip combined lunch and a brief meeting. A great way to start the holidays!

"I believe that this is the future of our Lions Clubs and we need to foster these young people and show them just how great and rewarding it is to do things for other people."



Working with... Te mahi tahi ki ngā hapori, ki te iwi