

## Karoonda Lions celebrates 40 years

ON June 23, the Karoonda and District Lions Club celebrated its 40th anniversary of charter with a lunch at the Karoonda Hotel.

Among the 70 guests were District Governor Ron Pascoe and his partner Nina, zone chairman Wally Hammond, Adrian Pederick MP and three past district governors.

The club chose "volunteering" as the theme, inviting representatives from the local Red Cross, Women in Agriculture and Business, County Women's Association, Country Fire Service, hospital Auxiliary and ambulance to participate.

Past members included Murray Bridge Mayor Allan Arbon.

The day was run as a community celebration.

Lion Kevin Burdett introduced president John Wooldridge for a brief welcome and later Don Anderson to recollect some early history of the club which revealed some amusing incidents.

Mention was made of smoke-filled dinners, handovers, mallee stump picks with witchetty grub sampling, spotlight

expeditions and a barbecue on a trailer firing up in transit.

The club received its charter on March 17, 1973, with 25 members.

Over the years it suffered from business closures and employment shifts, along with the usual retirements and deaths.

For several years the membership was down to seven, although the Lioness club with twice the number was a big factor in its survival.

But with determination and fine tuning the traditional way a club is run without compromising the ethics or objects, membership sits at 19, with two people awaiting induction.

The volunteer theme was highlighted by guest speaker Mr Pederick.

He congratulated volunteers in the community, stressing the important roles they perform in saving the country millions of dollars a year - in fact, without volunteers the nation would very soon come to a standstill, he said.

Focusing on the club, Mr Pederick made much of its ongoing recycling project, the main

fund raising venture at present.

He also emphasised the advantage of belonging to an international association by having access to substantial outside funds if needed.

Several instances totalling thousands of dollars were mentioned before proposing a toast to the club and Lions Clubs International.

The toast was responded to by District Governor Ron Pascoe.

The two surviving charter members, Don Anderson and Brian Martin are life members and had earlier received 40-year Charter Monarch awards and were invited to cut the cake.



**Special time:** Charter and life members Don Anderson and Brian Martin cut the cake to celebrate the Karoonda Lions Club 40-year anniversary.