



*Kaikoura Seaward Lions*

*Bulletin*

June 2025

OFFICERS FOR THE YEAR  
2024 - 2025

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Lion Tamer:	Robin Gemmell	
Tail Twister:	Sandra Scott	

**June Meetings and Happenings**

Dinner Meeting: Thursday 5 June (**change of date**), Takahanga Bowling Club – Dinner 6.00 pm, Meeting 7.00 pm

Greeters: Dot Halliday and Brenda Begbie

Raffle: Judy Jarvis and Sarah Flint

Please let Sandra Scott know by Monday 2 June if you are coming to dinner.

**Pay \$25.00 into Admin a/c 03-1586-0016070-000**

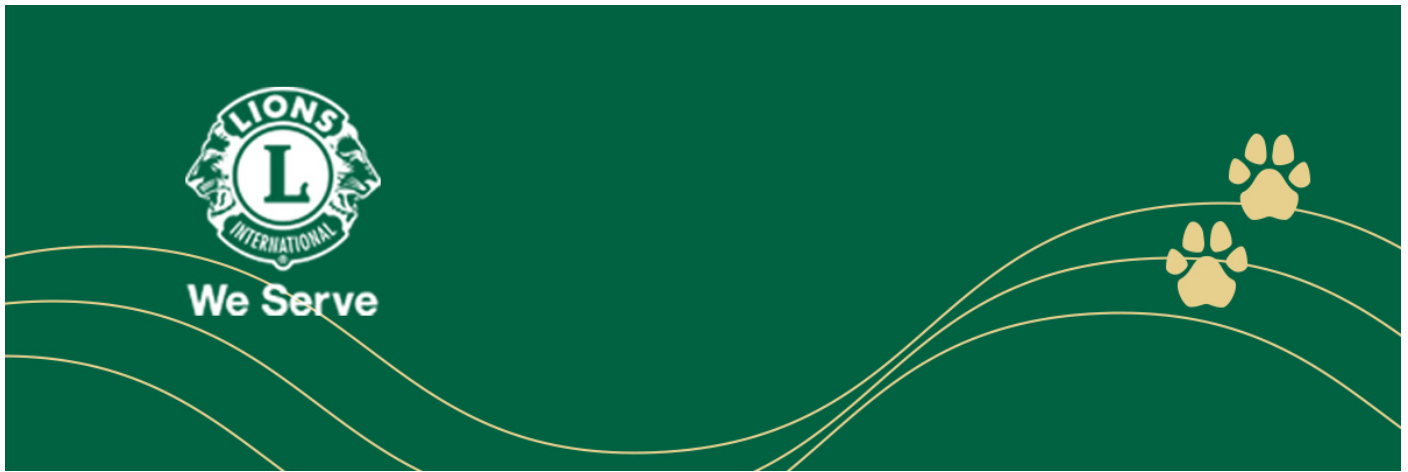
Board Meeting: Thursday 26 June, at Linda De Vine's home 151a Beach Road 7.00 pm – All welcome

Social Hour: Each Wednesday, King Tide, 4.30 pm (all welcome)

**REMINDERS: Trash Fashion Raffle** Monday 19 May Tickets go online

Thursday 22 May New World – Saturday 24 May New World

**Trash Fashion – 13-14 June** – All hands on deck required to ensure this event goes smoothly.



## *Embracing the Lion Experience*

Dear Lion,

The work we do as Lions has a profound impact on countless communities and lives — including my own.

Becoming a Lion 40 years ago filled a gap in my life I didn't even know existed. While I had been blessed with a beautiful family and a successful business career, it wasn't until I joined Lions that I discovered the incredible rewards of being part of a group dedicated to serving others. The friendships, leadership opportunities and sense of fulfillment have left an indelible mark on my life. For that, I am profoundly grateful.



As Lions, it's important to reflect on how being part of this organization has shaped our lives — and to share those stories with others. Let your family, friends and social media community know why you're proud to be a Lion. Better yet, invite them to join us. What better way to make a mark on someone's life than by offering them the chance to experience the joy of service?

That joy is what fuels my commitment to *MISSION 1.5*, our ambitious goal of reaching 1.5 million members by 2027. Thank you for embracing this mission and helping to spread the joy.

*Fabricio Oliviera*

### *Lions IQ Quiz – Part Two*

1. Who founded LCI?
2. Where was LCI founded?
3. What year was the association founded?
4. What is the LCI's motto?
5. What did Helen Keller challenge the Lions to become?
6. Where is International Headquarters located?



# MISSION 1.5

## *LCIF launches new Vision Grant to support Lions' service.*

“Ever since Helen Keller inspired Lions to champion the vision cause 100 years ago, we’ve served and advocated for the blind and visually impaired of all ages, in every corner of the world,” said Lions Clubs International Foundation (LCIF) Chairperson Dr. Patti Hill.



This historic appeal encouraged Lions to act as knights of the blind, and they have continually risen to that challenge by developing innovative projects, partnerships and programs, empowered by LCIF. The SightFirst program has been one of the key ways Lions and Leos have lived out this challenge in recent years. Since 1990, SightFirst funds have allowed Lions, health care providers and partner organizations around the world to fight the major causes of preventable and reversible blindness, impacting more than 544 million people.

In just over three decades, LCIF approved more than US\$389 million in SightFirst Grant funding for over 1,400 projects in 118 countries, thanks to the incredible generosity of donors. These funds enabled 9.8 million cataract surgeries and trained 2.66 million health care professionals. They also secured hundreds of millions of doses of medications to control trachoma and river blindness, helping eliminate river blindness in Colombia, Ecuador, Guatemala and Mexico, as well as helping eliminate trachoma in Malawi. These humanitarian service efforts have changed lives and improved communities. However, according to the World Health Organization, more than 2.2 billion people worldwide live with a vision impairment, and still need help.

To build on the legacy of SightFirst, LCIF launched a new Vision Grant opportunity that supports Lions-led service activities fighting blindness and preventable vision loss and assists people in underserved communities who are blind and visually impaired. The Vision Grant aims to support infrastructure development, equipment acquisition, human resource building and limited consumables, which are all core principles of the SightFirst program.



“We are extremely proud of our history, and look forward to the continued impact we will make restoring and preserving vision in the decades to come with this new grant opportunity,” said Dr. Hill. Visit [lionsclubs.org/vision-grant](https://lionsclubs.org/vision-grant) to learn how LCIF empowers Lions’ and Leos’ service in vision.



## President's Report

Hello

Thanks to Irene for taking the April board meeting and May meeting while I was fulfilling a long-held dream sailing around the island of Tahiti, Moorea, Huahine, Raiatea and Taha'a. with my daughter.



We had a wonderful time learning about the Polynesian culture and links with hours and endless hours snorkelling the magnificent coral reefs with the tropical fish. Trash Fashion is only a month away and with around 40 entries is coming along well. Thanks to Toni and the team who are doing all the organising. The smoke alarm/ grab bag project is underway and we hope to have safe over 70s living alone this winter.

The end of my time as President is also approaching and we have the changeover coming up.

*Linda*

## Volunteer Week 15 – 21 June

How are we going to celebrate our service to our community?

This is an opportunity for us to let our community know just what we do and I challenge you to think of a project we could undertake which involves other community members. I know it is just after Trash Fashion, but we need to make sure we keep our other activities visible to the community. The Litter Intelligence Beach Cleanup on the wettest day for ages was an excellent example of how the community can assist us if we ask for help! Maybe another environment activity could be held during this week?



## *Getting to know more of us*

### *Sue McInnes*

Sue joined Seaward Lions in 1997 and has been an active and cheerful member since then. She was president for the 2007-2008 Lions year, and Club membership chair in the 2010 -2011 Lions year. She is keen to look after our environment and has been a member of the environment committee for several years.

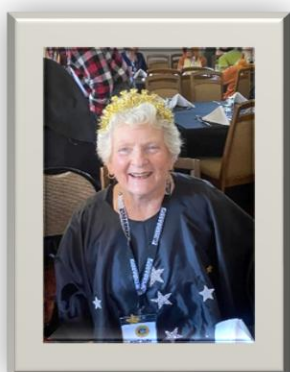
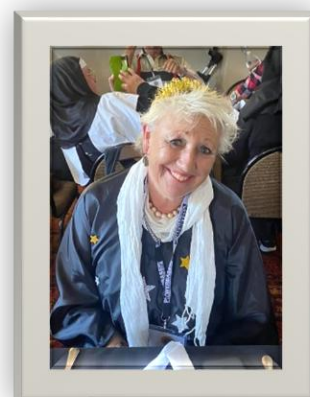


### *Wendy Beaven*

Wendy joined us in 2022 when she and her husband retired to Kaikoura. She became a director on our board in 2023 and was elected Treasurer in 2024, a position she will continue to hold in the 2025-2026 Lions year. Wendy also volunteers at the Community Op Shop (once a volunteer always a volunteer!)

### *Nicky McArthur*

Nicky has been a member of our club since 2011 and has been a club director since 2023. She is also a member of our charitable trust. Keepiand ng up with Nicky is exhausting. Not only is she an active Lion, she founded the Kaikoura Dark Sky Trust which worked to gain Kaikoura Dark Sky Sanctuary status and owns Puhi Peaks Station. She is a member of the Community Theatre trust. No matter how busy Nicky is, she always has time to help in any way she can.



### *Julie Syme – Charter Member*

Another of our Charter Members. There are not many offices Julie has not held in her 31 years with the club. She has been club secretary for at least two years, has been club president three times, has edited the club bulletin, and at present is the club's LCIF coordinator. She has also served as District Governor from 2009 – 2010 and was the Convention Chair at the recent 202E convention held in Hanmer Springs. I have probably missed out lots of other offices, but I think you can all see well how Julie has served our club.

# Who was Helen Keller?

**Helen Keller (1880–1968)** was an American author, educator, and activist who overcame the challenges of being both blind and deaf. Born in Tuscumbia, Alabama, she lost her sight and hearing at 19 months due to an illness. Her life changed when Anne Sullivan became her teacher in 1887, using innovative methods to help Keller communicate. Keller later attended Radcliffe College, becoming the first deafblind person in the U.S. to earn a Bachelor of Arts degree.

Throughout her life, Keller was a fierce advocate for disability rights, women's suffrage, labor rights, and world peace. She wrote 14 books, including her famous autobiography *The Story of My Life* (1903), and co-founded the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU). Her work with the American Foundation for the Blind helped improve education and opportunities for visually impaired individuals worldwide.

Keller's legacy continues to inspire generations, proving that determination and education can overcome even the greatest obstacles

## How did Lions become 'Knights of the Blind'?

In 1925, Helen Keller addressed the Lions Clubs International Convention in Cedar Point, Ohio, as an ambassador for the American Foundation for the Blind. In her speech, she passionately urged the Lions to support the cause of preventing blindness and aiding the visually impaired. She famously challenged them with the words: **"Will you not constitute yourselves knights of the blind in this crusade against darkness?"**

Her powerful appeal resonated deeply with the Lions, and before the convention ended, they committed themselves to her vision. Since then, Lions Clubs worldwide have dedicated themselves to vision-related initiatives, including eye care, surgeries, glasses, and research to combat preventable blindness. Keller's challenge continues to inspire their humanitarian work today.

Lions Clubs International has made a **tremendous impact** in vision-related humanitarian efforts since taking up Helen Keller's challenge in 1925. Here are some of their key contributions:

- **SightFirst Program:** This initiative has helped build **comprehensive eye care systems** in underserved communities, funding surgeries, treatments, and research to combat preventable blindness.
- **Vision Screenings & Eyeglasses:** Lions Clubs have conducted **millions of vision screenings** worldwide and provided affordable eyeglasses to those in need.
- **Global Grants & Partnerships:** Through the **Lions Clubs International Foundation (LCIF)**, they have funded projects like optical clinics in areas where eye care was previously unavailable.
- **Campaign 100:** This ambitious fundraising effort has
  - expanded their focus beyond vision to include **disaster relief, diabetes prevention, childhood cancer, hunger, and environmental causes.**

Their work has **transformed lives**, ensuring that people who once struggled with vision impairment can now see clearly and lead independent lives.



## From the Editor's Mess

It doesn't take long for a wonderful family holiday to become a distant memory, consumed by the reality of everyday life. Family holidays are a



great way to engage with grandchildren in a totally different environment, and watching them as they played, swam and explored a new place was wonderful. I did take some time for myself and went and had lunch with Lou and Kevin who were also enjoying some rest and relaxation in the sun.



What do bulletin editor's do when they are not editing bulletins? They relax in the sun and enjoy the break! I'd like to thank Alison Moore who kindly stepped up and took the minutes for the board and supper meetings for me while I was away. I really appreciated your help.

Trash Fashion is fast approaching and looks to be the sell out occasion it always has been. The organising team has been amazing, and it is great to see our newer members taking an active role in organising everything. Keeping our newer members engaged is a vital part of ensuring our club remains dynamic and continues to thrive. I know it is difficult to stand aside and watch people do things differently, but we must do it. It is important to remember that we are a team, and everyone in the club is vital to make sure that the team functions smoothly.

**I'm shamelessly copying from Lion Hamish's article in the May District Bulletin here:**

***"Lions must evolve while staying true to our mission. Clubs that embrace change, empower new voices, and focus on impact will thrive. The best way to preserve our legacy isn't holding onto the past—it's building for the future."***

Further on in this bulletin there is more about embracing change to thrive.

I recently attended a training day for club officers and came away with a head full of new ideas, new expectations from the leadership team and pages of information which will help me as I continue to learn just what is expected of me as secretary. Thanks to PCC Chair Helen Williams and GLT leader Tini Lawry who facilitated the day. I'm sure our MARCOM chair Toni's ears were burning as her great posts on Facebook, Instagram and other social media platforms were praised during the meeting and used as an example of how we can make sure our service activities are publicised as widely as possible.

Finally, in June Lions celebrate 100 years of being "Knights of the Blind". The board is trying to find a service activity we can carry out to show our community what this means today.

Have a great month, enjoy Trash Fashion, freeze in the Polar Plunge for the pool and keep your eyes peeled for ways we can serve our community.

## Alison J

***As we go through life, we change and develop. As we do so, we must recognise that others are changing too. We must be able to forgive the past and move on to something better.***



# May Meeting Guest Speaker

(Report and photos supplied by Sandra Wyatt – thank you, Sandra)

It was a pleasure to welcome Te Awhina Rangimarie Arahanga to the Club Supper Meeting on Thursday 8th May. As well as being a published poet, Te Awhina is the Curator at Kaikōura Museum.



Te Awhina told us about the various species of Moa birds that used to roam the land which was both interesting and informative. She also brought along some very special pieces from the recently donated collection of Moa bones which were discovered on land owned by the Seddon family. The bones were very carefully excavated from the site and gathered together, but the Museum now has the task of cleaning and cataloguing the collection.



Isn't it always the way?

Apparently I missed the best guest speaker we have had for some time.

I'll certainly be going into the museum to have a look and learn some more about the moa which used to roam our district.

*Alison J*

***“It is not the strongest of the species that survives, nor the most intelligent that survives. It is the one that is the most adaptable to change.”***

Charles Darwin  
Naturalist

# *Time to Evolve*

*(Edited from an article in Lion Magazine – American edition) I must admit to feeling a bit smug when I read this article. In many ways we are at the head of the pack as far as social media goes. Ed*

Animals evolved the ability to fly through four distinct events in history: insects, bats, birds, and pterosaurs, enabling them to navigate their environments more effectively for survival.

Over the last two decades, interactions that once occurred face-to-face have shifted to the digital realm, transforming how organizations like Lions Clubs connect and recruit members.

To thrive in a digital age, Lions Clubs must embrace online platforms like Facebook and Instagram to reach potential members and serve their communities effectively, as many are already active online.

## *Get on Social Media*

Kaikoura Seaward Lions are already making our presence felt on social media, but we can do more. We are not the same club we were 31 years ago (remember those days?). *It is interesting to note that when members are asked why their daughters haven't joined Lions the reply is that they are too busy. When our club was formed 31 years ago, the youngest member was a solo mother of two, running her own business. She was busy but she still found time to serve.*

We do things differently. We text and we email. We need to make sure we have an active online club. By this I mean making sure our club activities are always online, letting people know just what we are doing to serve our community. People will read our posts for weeks or months before they will consider attending a meeting or enquiring about joining us. Use our website regularly and connect it to our Facebook page to help spread the word.

## *Make it look like Fun and Keep it Fresh*

What we post on social media is important. People who may be looking for ways to do some volunteer work will engage if our posts look like we are having fun while we are serving. Making our posts attractive and engaging is important. Using high quality photos will make people stop scrolling. They make decisions in a matter of seconds whether to stop or scroll on.

Post regularly so that the club feels relevant and active. When we are planning an activity, we should ask people to show they are interested in attending. They may not come, but we are missing an opportunity if we don't at least give them the option.

## *Taking Meetings Online*

If we learned one thing from the COVID lockdowns, it was that it is possible to have meetings without leaving our homes. Online meetings give those members who may not be in town (or even in the country) the opportunity to participate and take an active part in the discussions taking place in the face to face meetings. The latest technology makes it very easy to have online meetings. It could be life-changing for many who find coming to meetings difficult.

## *Be Fearless*

Change can be hard. But in nature, those who fail to adapt, fail to thrive. Whether you agree with the digital revolution or not, it's here. You can choose to stay rooted to the old ways and risk losing your chapter as members get too old to do service work, or you can use the innovation and creativity that Lions have long been known for to push yourself and our club to move outside our comfort zone.

We can start flapping our digital wings, attracting more members through smart use of online resources, and increasing the work our club does for the community.

Who knows, maybe you'll learn to fly.

A cluster of four shiny red balloons with gold spiral ribbons is positioned in the upper left. Below them, several wrapped gifts are visible: a large purple gift with a purple and white striped ribbon, a smaller red gift with a red and white striped ribbon, and another red gift partially visible on the left. The background is a light gray gradient.

# Happy Birthday

BRENDA BEGBIE	2 JUNE
RITA CALVERT	9 JUNE
WENDY BEAVEN	13 JUNE
NICKY MCARTHUR	23 JUNE

**With Changeover just around the corner, I thought it would be good to remind everyone of the roles and responsibilities of each club officer.**

## *Roles and Responsibilities of Board Members*

(As from the club officers' installation)

**Club Treasurer** As such you will be in charge of and responsible for the club's finances. The Treasurer is the officer appointed by the Club to receive, disburse and account for the Club's money, and deposit the same in a bank or banks as authorised by the Board of Directors. You must be accurate and prompt in banking and in the payment of accounts. You must prepare and submit monthly and annual financial statements and reports to the Board and the International Office of the Association when called upon.

**Directors on the Board** With the other officers, you form what is called the board of directors of the club. Your position is important because you will assist in forming and executing the policies of the club. All new business is considered and shaped by this board of directors. "You will faithfully attend the regular and special meetings of the board, and give unselfishly of your time and effort to advance your club and Lions Clubs International".

**Vice Presidents** What I have just said about the duties of the directors also applies to you. In addition, you, in order of your office and presence, will substitute for the president when absent from any club of board of directors meeting. As vice president you shall, under direction of the president, oversee the functioning of such committees as the president may designate.

**Marketing Chairperson** You will develop and implement the club communications plan to publicise club activities to both members and non-members, expand newsworthy accomplishments via all available means of effective communications and media distribution.

**Service Chairperson** You will work with others to develop, communicate and implement the annual programme of community and humanitarian service approved by the club's board of directors, incorporating both youth/Leos, members and non-members in your service projects.

**Membership Chairperson** You will help develop and implement a membership growth plan and retention programme to encourage and assist the club in recruiting and retaining high quality members.

**Secretary** Yours is one of the most important offices in the club. The success of your club will be determined largely by the efficiency with which you perform the duties of your office. You are the president's right hand. Under the president's direction and that of the board of directors, you are the liaison officer between your club and Lions Clubs International and between your club and your district governor's organisation. You are an active member of the district governor's advisory committee (zone) and as such you will attend the quarterly advisory committee meetings of your zone. You will receive pertinent information from Lions Clubs International intended to aid you in properly performing the duties of your office.

**President** of your club, you are its chief executive officer and will be expected to preside at all meetings of your club, and regular and special meetings of your board of directors. It is your duty to appoint the administrative and activities committees in accordance with the Lions International Club Standard Organisation Plan, and to act as an ex-officio member of each of these committees. With your vice-presidents, you shall see to it that these committees function. You are also, with the club secretary, an active member of the district governor's advisory committee and as such you will attend the quarterly advisory committee meetings of your zone. Keep in mind that at the end of your term of office you will be called upon to give and account of your stewardship. Your record of achievement will then be history. This record in years to come will be compared with the records of other presidents. Your club members will best decide your success. Now is the time to plan, and take steps to continue to build your club in every way possible so that it may be an example to other clubs, and a credit to the community, the district and to Lions Clubs International.



Somewhere in the world:

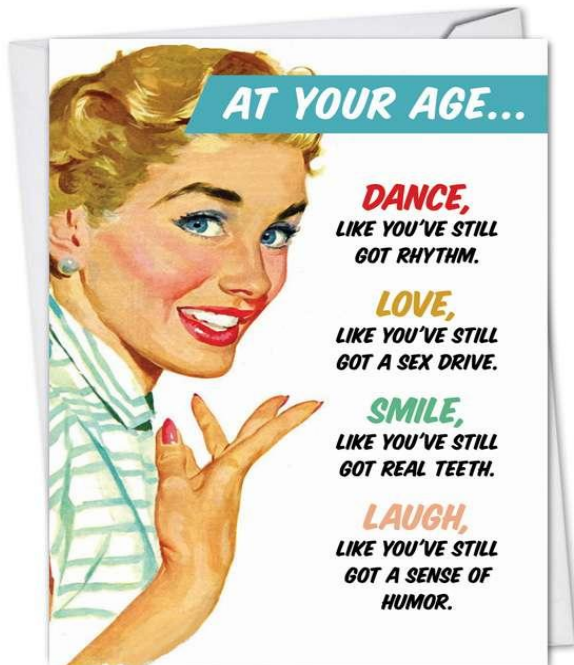
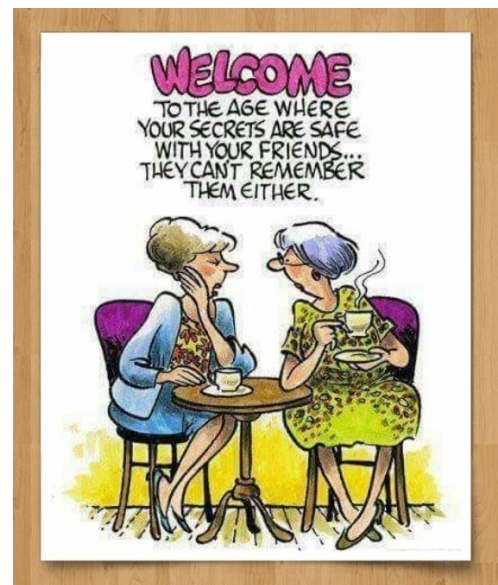
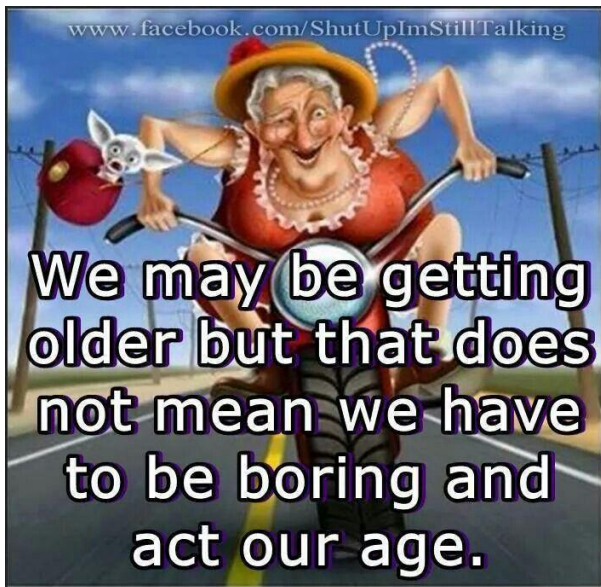
- Someone is sleeping safely tonight.
- A family will have enough food to eat.
- A child will go to school today.
- Someone will receive medical care.
- Eye Care will be provided.

All because:

- A Lion cared
- A Lion helped



## To Finish with a laugh (or at least a giggle)



## Laugh



**Laugh and the world laughs  
with you.**

**That is, unless you're by  
yourself on the sidewalk.  
Then they cross the street  
to avoid you.**

I'm sceptical of anyone  
who tells me they do  
yoga every day, that's a  
bit of a stretch.

FUNNY ONE LINERS - WWW.PUN.ME

I just got kicked out of a  
secret cooking society,  
I spilled the beans.

FUNNY ONE LINERS - WWW.PUN.ME

