

Andrew William Gibson

20th March 1952 – 10th July 2013



“To Everyone and Anyone  
Who woke up and felt blue,  
Try and do what’s never done  
And shine a light or two.”

Written by A W Gibson  
in ‘Mao’s Mountain’ 1972



Andy was born in Harare on the 20th March 1952 to Lawrence and Sylvia Gibson. He was the youngest of four children. Andy was educated at Churchill High School in Harare before proceeding to the then University of Rhodesia's Institute of Education's Teachers College in Bulawayo. He graduated in 1973 with a Certificate in Education and a distinction in Art. He also qualified with London City and Guilds as a commercial artist.

Andy worked for the Government's Education Department for five years teaching at Selukwe Primary School (1974), then Riverside Primary School in Gweru (1974-1977) and finally Mashaba Primary School (1977-1978) as Acting Headmaster.

Andy met Janice at Teachers College in 1973 and they were married in St John's Cathedral in Bulawayo on the 17 April 1976.



In 1979 Andy and Jan moved to Triangle where Andy took up a teaching post at Murray MacDougall School as the Grade 6 Teacher. He pioneered the integration of Wildlife and Conservation into the general teaching schemes of Grade 6 which led to the annual Grade 6 Bushtrip. In 1985 Andy became Deputy Headmaster and then in August 1999 he was appointed as Headmaster.

During his near 35 years in Triangle, the community became an integral part of Andy's life. He knew everyone by name, took part in all activities and redefined the art of social networking. Andy was never disappointed by anyone, he always gave them another chance to do better.



*Andy's Life*

Andy was a magnificent father, loving husband and a wonderfully spectacular man and loyal friend to many, who by knowing him has enriched all of our lives.



## *A Tribute to Lion Andy*



Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> July 2013, was a sad day for Lions Club of Triangle, as well as the Lowveld community as a whole. Lion Andy lost his battle with cancer. He had been diagnosed in early April and just 3 months later, he was gone! Lion Cosmas had the difficult task of speaking at the memorial, on the 17<sup>th</sup> August, but did a tremendous job talking all about Andy – The Lion.

“It is very difficult to summarize the life and achievements of a highly successful and well accomplished lion-one who served with passion and commitment just to put a smile on the faces of the less fortunate. A lion who shared his personal resources and family without seeking benefits or favours in return-a lion who never asked for re-imburement for his expenses in carrying out his obligations as a lion-A lion who shared his time with those in need and a part of his life for a cause he believed in and cherished.

His definition of lions, An association of like minded persons for service to the less fortunate in our communities-the reward, a smile and joy of witnessing the happiness and true appreciation by the recipients.

Lion Andy was a passionate and contagious, in the good sense of the world. Those who had the opportunity to meet and work with him or attended his schools of instruction would forever remember the fun, the inspiring presentations, his philosophy and vision of Lionism. He made other members feel that just being a lion was such a great achievement in their lives. He was very humble and never accepted credit but shared success with fellow lions. Never the one to judge others but always seeking to understand them better(How do you get along with some of these guys?),was a question often asked of him.

As a lion cognicent that humanitarian service extend beyond the boundaries of his own community, lion Andy demonstrated his generosity and concern for the less fortunate by getting involved with orphanages and schools in rural communities, organizing supplies as well as donating computers.

On the occasion of this memorial service, we, lions of district 412, extend our sympathy to the family of Lion Andy and we assure them of our respect, our esteem and our love to the husband and to the father they have lost.

We pray that Lion Andy rests in peace and possesses the knowledge that he is missed and acclaimed by his fellow lions in district 412 but most of all the Lions club of triangle.

### **Hi; Service to lions**

- Lions Club of Triangle  
Served as club president  
Club treasurer(for life)  
Youth and environment portfolio  
Tailtwister (of naught)  
Convenor of several successful projects
  
- District 412 Cabinet  
Served as zone chairman  
Region Chairman  
Cabinet officer for youth and environment  
Cabinet Tail twister  
Facilitator of schools of instruction  
Leadership Coach
  
- Contributions  
Orientation of new and old lion members  
Presentation on how to kick start a club (with Lion Benny)  
Development of simple club to zone reports and zone to Cabinet reports to replace narrative reports.
  
- Awards and achievements  
Numerous club awards.  
Several district awards.  
Lions International recognition awards.  
The best ongoing youth projects.

### **Hi; Roar**

- ❖ Simply the best banner
- ❖ Cyclone Eline disaster response
- ❖ District 412 convention-Mush in the bush I(1996)
- ❖ District 412 Convention-Mush in the Bush II(1998)
- ❖ District 412 Convention-(Space Odyssey)(2001)
- ❖ The Murray Mac school around Zim Tour
- ❖ The Umzingwane Youth Camp
- ❖ Christmas Day visits to Orphanages

## **The Spark(Lighter Moments with Lion Andy)**



- ✚ Mutare District 412 Convention-The Ostrich Dance and the safari scouts theme
- ✚ The Bulawayo District 412 Convention-Men in Black(the notorious 5)
- ✚ The Vic Falls Convention-the traditional dance troupe
- ✚ Malawi Expedition with Lion L Mwenje-The aspirin prescription for the Immigration officer
- ✚ Malberegign Cabinet Meeting-the valentine red rose provider
- ✚ Bulawayo-the chase-Lion Dhiru and the 3am morning coffee and cake

## The Voice Of Reason



- “Don't get tense, it will be alright,” Followed by the famous handshake and the laughter
- The JJ corner-except for the Gin and Coke-telling it like it is.
- Candor-it does not hurt to know the truth and deal with it, after all there is nothing a drink can't fix.
- It's easy to mend a broken child than to mend a broken adult-but then to fix an adult you need to break them first.

\*\*We say goodbye to a great Father, a friend, a hero, a greater leader and a visionary for the youth. He has gone to higher service where he joins his Late Lion friends, Lion JJ, Lion Neil, Lion Langton and Lion Steve.\*\*

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