

PDG Des Hitchcock – A Dedicated District Leader, Skilled Organiser, and Tireless Builder of Lionism

Nominated by the Lions Club of Port Kennedy

Past District Governor Des Hitchcock devoted four decades of service to Lions Clubs International, beginning his Lionistic journey in **1976** with the **Karratha Dampier Lions Club**. A respected bank manager who moved frequently, Des brought energy, leadership, and stability to every club he joined. His commitment to Lionism was unwavering, and his influence extended across clubs, districts, and national programs.

Club Leadership

As Des relocated for work, he brought his skills and passion for service to a number of Lions clubs across Western Australia, including:

- **Karratha Dampier Lions Club**
- **Kalamunda Lions Club**
- **Lynwood Lions Club** – where he was appointed **Guiding Lion** to rebuild the club
- **Lesmurdie Lions Club**
- **Rockingham Lions Club**
- **Port Kennedy Lions Club** – where he served until his passing

He held many senior club roles, always stepping forward as a leader, mentor, and reliable supporter, helping clubs grow in membership, strength, and community impact.

District Leadership

Des made an enormous contribution to District 201W1 through a wide range of important leadership positions, including:

- **District Governor – 1993/94**
- **Lieutenant Governor**
- **Cabinet Secretary**
- **CBL Chairman**

- **Zone Chairman**
- **Ringabout Chairman**
- **Miss Personality Chairman**
- **Fundraising Project Coordinator**
- **New Clubs Orientation Officer**
- **Training Forums Coordinator**

His depth of knowledge and dedication made him a key pillar of district operations for many years.

Major Programs & International Involvement

At both District and Multiple District levels, Des played a vital role in fostering international goodwill and youth development. His contributions included:

- **Secretary – Lions Save Sight Foundation**
- **Youth Exchange Coordinator**
- **Scandinavian Goodwill Tours Coordinator**
- **New Clubs Orientation Officer**

He also:

- **Organised Scandinavian and Australian Lions adult exchange visits**
- **Coordinated a major Scandinavian Youth Choir tour**, managing concerts, hosting, logistics, and cultural activities

These initiatives strengthened cross-cultural relationships and showcased Lions' commitment to international friendship and understanding.

At the national level, Des also served as:

- **Treasurer – Multiple District Convention (1994)**
- **Member – Multiple District Legal Committee (10 years)**
 - **Consultant for Districts 201W1 and 201W2**

His expertise in governance and policy was relied upon for a full decade at the highest levels of Australian Lionism.

Honours and Recognition

For his decades of devoted service, PDG Des Hitchcock received many major Lions honours, including:

- **International President's Certificates of Appreciation**
- **Life Membership – Lions Clubs International**
- **William R. Tresise Fellowship**
- **Melvin Jones Fellowship**
- **Lions Save Sight Foundation Fellowship Award**

These awards reflect the respect he earned and the enormous impact of his contributions across clubs, districts, and international programs.

A Lion of Energy, Dedication, and Leadership

PDG Des Hitchcock was admired for his willingness to serve, his organisational skill, and his deep commitment to growing and supporting Lionism. Whether building new clubs, strengthening district programs, fostering youth exchanges, or championing Lions Save Sight, Des made a long-lasting difference.

His legacy lives on in the clubs he strengthened, the Lions he mentored, and the international goodwill he helped foster across Lions communities.