

# PDG John Knowles OAM – A Distinguished Leader, Dedicated Servant, and Pillar of Australian Lionism

## Nominated by the Lions Club of Floreat

**Past District Governor John Knowles OAM** served Lionism with unwavering commitment for more than **45 years**, beginning his journey in **1967** with the Lions Club of Floreat. Widely respected for his leadership, integrity, and tireless service, John played a vital role in strengthening his club, district, and the national Lions organisation.

## Club Leadership

John's long and dedicated service to the Lions Club of Floreat included many of the club's highest leadership roles. His positions included:

- **Club President – 3 terms**
- **Club Secretary – 4 terms**
- **Club Treasurer – 4 terms**
- **Director – 18 years**

His guidance, experience, and steady leadership were instrumental in shaping Floreat's success and strong community presence.

## District Leadership

John contributed significantly at the District level, serving in numerous key roles, including:

- **District Governor – 1979/80**
- **Cabinet Secretary – 13 years (201W1)**
- **State Chairman – Miss Personality (2 years)**
- **Other key Cabinet positions across multiple decades**

His deep knowledge of governance and administration made him one of the most relied-upon leaders in the district's history.

## National Leadership

John's influence extended across Australia through significant national-level appointments, including:

- **Sergeant-at-Arms – Multiple District Convention (6 years)**
- **Chairman – Australian Lions Foundation (7 years)**
- **Emergency Grants Chairman – 16 years**

His leadership within the Australian Lions Foundation ensured strong financial governance, timely disaster relief, and strategic national support for Lions projects.

## Honours and Recognition

PDG John Knowles was one of the most highly decorated Lions in Western Australia. His exceptional service was honoured with an extensive list of prestigious Lions awards:

- **Progressive Melvin Jones Fellowship**
- **William R. Tresise Fellowship**
- **Two James D. Richardson Honour Awards**
- **Two International President's Awards**
- **Ten International President's Certificates of Appreciation**
- **Six District Governor Star Awards**
- **Tom Cameron Award**
- **Inaugural recipient of the John Knowles Award**
- **Life Member – Lions Club of Floreat**
- **Ambassador of Goodwill Award – Lions Clubs International's highest honour**
- **Lions Save Sight Fellow & Life Member**
- **Australian Lions Foundation Hall of Fame Inductee – 2009**
- **Order of Australia Medal (OAM) for service to the community through Lions Clubs International**
- **Inducted into the Past District Governors Hall of Fame**

These awards stand as formal recognition of his lifetime of leadership, generosity, and impact.

## Major Contributions to Lions

John's commitment extended far beyond formal roles. Notably, he:

- **Operated the Lions Shop for District 201W1 from the back of his Leederville pharmacy for many years**, generating significant revenue
- Played a major role in strengthening District finances, leaving them in a “healthy state” that continues to benefit Lions today
- Served as an invaluable mentor, advisor, and example to countless Lions
- Championed initiatives that supported both community programs and the growth of Lionism across Western Australia

His practical service, combined with administrative excellence and visionary leadership, made him one of the most influential Lions in the District’s history.

## **A Legacy of Service, Leadership & Integrity**

**PDG John Knowles OAM** embodied the Lions motto “**We Serve**” in every aspect of his life. His decades of leadership, thoughtful stewardship of Lions resources, mentorship of emerging leaders, and exceptional commitment to community service have left an enduring legacy in Floreat, across Western Australia, and throughout the Lions organisation.

**He remains a shining example of what it truly means to be a Lion.**