

PDG Tom Cameron OAM – A Pioneer, Visionary Leader & Founding Force of Western Australian Lionism

Nominated by the Lions Club of Morley

Past District Governor Tom Cameron OAM stands as one of the true pioneers of Lionism in Western Australia. A **Charter Member** of the **Lions Club of Morley**, the third Lions club to be established in WA, Tom devoted decades of tireless service to building, strengthening, and promoting Lionism across the State and the nation.

Club & District Leadership

Tom's leadership was evident from the earliest days of WA Lionism. His service included:

- **Charter Member – Lions Club of Morley**
- **District Governor – 1968/69**, serving as the **third District Governor of District 201L**
- **22 years on District Cabinet**, contributing across a wide range of portfolios
- **Youth Exchange Chairman**
- **Chairman – Several District Conventions**
- **Extension Chairman – entire State of Western Australia**

Tom's influence shaped the early structure and growth of Lionism and helped create a strong foundation for future generations.

Builder of Lions Clubs Across WA

Tom was one of the most prolific club builders in Western Australia, credited with assisting in the formation of **41 new Lions Clubs**. These include:

- **Inglewood**
- **Osborne Park**
- **Merredin**
- **Kalgoorlie**
- **Tammin**
- **Goomalling**
- **Northampton**

- **Mullewa**
- **Lake Grace**
- *...and many more throughout regional and metropolitan WA*

His dedication to membership growth and club establishment left an extraordinary legacy that continues to enrich communities across the State.

Innovator in Sight-Saving Projects

Tom's visionary service extended deeply into sight-saving initiatives. When the City of Perth Lions Auxiliary purchased a **22-foot caravan** to use as a **mobile glaucoma screening clinic**, Tom:

- **Travelled for weeks at a time through the Pilbara and Kimberley**, offering sight screening to remote communities
- Supported the earliest groundwork that would eventually lead to the creation of:
 - **The Lions Eye Institute**
 - **The Lions Save Sight Foundation**

In honour of his contribution, the **Tom Cameron Award** was created by the Lions Eye Institute — a rare and significant tribute.

National Leadership & Service

At a national level, Tom also served as:

- **Vice President – Civilian Maimed & Limbless Association (20 years)**
- **Past Vice President & Workshop Coordinator – Para Quads**

These roles reflect his deep commitment to supporting Australians living with disability.

Honours and Recognition

PDG Tom Cameron received an impressive and well-deserved array of high honours throughout his lifetime, including:

- **Life Membership – Lions Clubs International**

- **Melvin Jones Fellowship**
- **Key Member Award**
- **Lion of the Year**
- **World President's Award**
 - *First Western Australian to receive this honour*
- **Advance Australia Award (1995)**
- **Justice of the Peace – over 20 years**
- **Order of Australia Medal (OAM)**
- **Inductee – Past District Governors Hall of Fame**
- **Recipient – Tom Cameron Award (in his honour)**

In **1999**, at the Lions Australia 50th Anniversary Convention in Lismore, Tom was one of just **20 Lions nationwide** to receive the prestigious **Lismore Medal**, recognising his profound contribution to the establishment and growth of Lionism in Australia.

A Legacy Etched in the History of Lionism

PDG Tom Cameron OAM was a trailblazer, a compassionate servant, a mentor, and a tireless leader whose dedication helped build the foundations of Lionism in Western Australia. His decades of work in club development, sight-saving initiatives, youth programs, and community support continue to resonate throughout WA Lions and beyond.

His legacy lives on in the clubs he created, the programs he championed, and the generations of Lions who follow in his footsteps.