

More than just a nice set of pins

When Ken Haywood joined Lions Clubs International 21 years ago, he never expected to develop a passion for pins.

The Mandurah car park attendant had recently retired from the Royal Australian Air Force, where he had worked in the RAAF medical and dental administration, and was living in South Australia.

"I joined Lions so I could remain involved with a club and the local community," he said. Then the Lions pins just sort of caught my eye."

Two decades on, Ken remains an active member of Lions International, well known for its community-based charity work and service, and has amassed a collection of more than 3,000 pins representing different Lions Clubs.

Ken says there is a strong social side to trading, and the pins themselves can say a lot about the different regions where Lions operates.

Each club has its own pins and when you have conventions or special events, like Mandurah has just had with its 40th anniversary, they bring out special pins," Ken said.

"I'm part of a club where you can trade the pins; you put yours out on a table and pick up ones you don't have and swap for ones you do."

Ken's collection has boomed and he has a number of rare pins, including different sets representing a single theme, and examples from clubs around Australia and across the world.

Being with the RAAF, I've got quite a few full sets of pins with different old aircraft," Ken said.

"I've also got lots of different animals as well: cockies, dolphins for Mandurah as well as crabs. Farming areas might have a header or a sheaf of wheat. "I have had a special jacket made up by a lady in South Australia— it probably has a good 200 pins on it and is very heavy." Ken's father is also a Lions member and shares his son's love of the pin trading. While pin trading has become a passion, Ken says he also finds great satisfaction in the Lions Club International charity work. Being part of the club gives him an opportunity to work with the local community and give something back to the people of Mandurah and Rockingham.

"One thing I'm coordinating at the moment is called an Emergency Medical Information Booklet and I've got them in outlets all around Mandurah, Ken said.

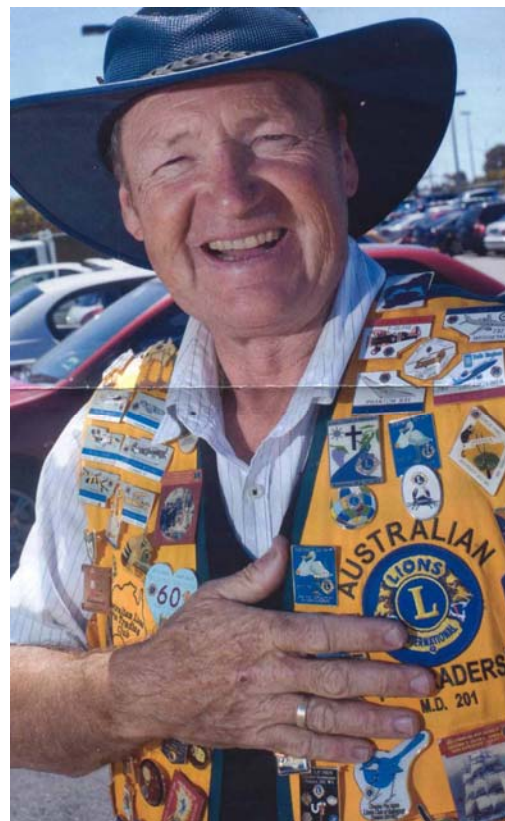
"They have little magnets on the back and have been produced through St John Ambulance and Lions International. They can be put on the fridge and if the ambulance has to come to your home the first thing they look for is the booklet on your fridge—it has all your important important medical information in it, like the medication you are taking and any conditions" It is just a small way that Lions International is working to improve people's lives, Ken said.

Footnote: The story was placed into Lion Ken's monthly work staff magazine and took almost the full page. Lion Ken has been a member of LITPC, you might see his membership pin just above his hand, for about 2 years and has been pin trading for about the same time. He certainly is enthusiastic. His father Lion Bob, is a member of my Lions Club and a member of our ALPTC.

The staff magazine covers the W.A.G.R. staff and many community outlets, so Ken's pin face is seen everywhere in his home state.

Yours in Lionism,
PDG Lance Leak

LITPC Board Member



Mandurah car park attendant Ken Haywood collects and trades pin in his spare time.