

This Lion just keeps on giving

42 years of major health projects

In 1968, Dr. Bob Cooter, a charter member of the Port Augusta Lions Club and a local GP, organised the largest glaucoma screening ever held in South Australia.

Over a Friday evening, and the next day, 2500 people were tested for glaucoma. Twenty five were found to have the condition, with four requiring urgent surgery.

This year, Lion Dr. Bob. continues to conduct screening programs for diabetes and hypertension.

In the intervening 42 years, he has probably initiated and organised more major Lions health projects than any other Lion.

Bob Coulthard, P.I.D.

Dr Bob's amazing record

Glaucoma screenings: After transferring his medical practice to Adelaide in 1972, he joined the Lions medical team, led by ophthalmologist, Lion Dr. John Slade. Over the next ten years, they performed 600,000 glaucoma tests throughout South Australia and the Northern Territory.

Amblyopia (lazy eye) screenings: In 1971 while still in Port Augusta, he organised one of the first pre-school vision testing sessions by Lions in Australia – 500 children were tested in this initial project. The project was extended throughout South Australia, and continued for several years until taken over by the S.A. Health Commission.

Home renal dialysis: In 1973, Bob played a leading role in taking renal dialysis out of the major hospitals into patients' homes. Under his guidance, Lions established a training centre for people on dialysis, as a forerunner to them having treatment in their own homes.

South Australian Lions Heart Research Foundation: In the late 1970s, South Australian Lions raised \$500,000 to establish this project. The foundation's aim was to provide public education of the dangers of heart disease, to fund research scholarships and to oversee research fellowships for trainee cardiologists. Bob played a leading role in the establishment of the foundation and was the secretary for several years.

Anti Cancer Foundation: Bob was instrumental in persuading Lions districts to join the foundation and, under his leadership, South Australian Lions provided several education units for use throughout the state.

Mobile mammography unit for screening rural women: From his experience as a rural medical practitioner, Bob was aware of the lack of facilities for breast cancer screening in country areas. He organised Lions to raise \$135,000 to purchase a mobile screening unit. In the first two years of operation, the unit screened 130,000



WELL DESERVED ACCOLADE: International Director Ken Bird presents Dr Bob Cooter with the Ambassador of Goodwill Award at the C1 Convention last year.

● In 1966, Bob was the first person to recognise that the cause of the epidemic of often-fatal meningitis in mid-north South Australian towns was an amoeba which thrived under certain conditions. For many years, credit for this discovery was claimed by another doctor. This was only recently rectified and last year the University of Adelaide bestowed on Bob the Distinguished Alumni Award.

● Bob was made a Member of the Order of Australia (AM) for his service to the community through Lions Clubs International, the Royal Flying Doctor Service and Rural Health. His outstanding record of community service is probably unique within Lions Multiple District 201.

women, with 80 previously undiagnosed cases of breast cancer being detected.

Prostate Cancer Awareness Project: Bob conceived and organised this very effective public awareness project in which Lions clubs throughout South Australia organised specialist urologists to address club and public meetings.

Newborn Hearing Screening Program: In 2004, Bob organised Lions to raise \$120,000 for 10 hand-held instruments to detect hearing loss in new-born babies in maternity hospitals, thus reducing the incidence of speech defects in later life.

Lions Hearing Dog Training Centre, Verdun: This multi-million dollar project in the Adelaide Hills was established in 1981. Bob was a member of the original organising committee. He served on the board for many years and was continuously involved with the project for over 25 years.

Australian Cranio-Facial Unit and Foundation: When this foundation was established, in Adelaide, in 1975, Bob was responsible for Lions becoming one of the foundation's original support groups. He served on the foundation board for 12 years, and on the fundraising committee until recently.

Royal Flying Doctor Service: When a doctor in Port Augusta, Bob joined the service as a "flying doctor", travelling to outback cattle stations to treat and retrieve sick patients. He served on the national board for several years and was instrumental in Lions clubs becoming regular major donors to the RFDS.

● At the 201C1 convention, last year, International Director Ken Bird presented Bob with the Ambassador of Goodwill Award. Apart from Past International Directors, he is only the seventh Australian Lion to receive this award in the past 35 years.