

Introducing the District Governor Team 2025-26

District Governor Simon Westwood and Lion Amber Cauchi

Simon was born and raised in Melbourne. After completing high school, he took on several jobs in rural and retail work and in the cinema industry, before joining Victoria Police in 1987.

Simon served in metropolitan Melbourne and rural Victoria for over 12 years, before purchasing a small country business, and joining the local CFA Brigade as a volunteer.

In 2001, he moved to South Australia, continuing his voluntary work by joining the Hahndorf CFS where he served in various roles up to 2016, including being part of the Leadership Group.

In 2013 he joined the Hahndorf Lions Club where he remains a member. As well as spinning hundreds of sausages, he has been involved in all of the Club's service activities and has been elected onto the Club's board and as Vice President and President.



At District level, he has been Global Leadership Coordinator (GLT), Zone 6 Chair twice, as well as undertaking the District Governor path. His other Lions roles are as Chair of the Lions Medical Research Foundation, and its Skin Cancer Screening Subcommittee.

Simon's partner, PA, social director and confidante, Amber Cauchi, was never going to be a Lion. She has now independently made her own Lions path after seeing the impact Lions can have while she was volunteering with mobile skin cancer screening unit. She is currently the Youth Camps and Exchange Chair.

When not doing Lions business, Simon is an elected member of the Mount Barker District Council and still has time to work driving buses and coaches.

Simon has been a part of the formulation and is now undertaking an exciting and practical plan which has been carefully formulated by successive District Governors to bring growth to our membership well into the future.

He strongly believes that every Lions member is part of their Club team and therefore the District team. Every C2 Lion has an important part to play in achieving the plan, in the knowledge that they are being supported by the District Governor Team and the District's Action Team of Leadership, Membership and Service coordinators.

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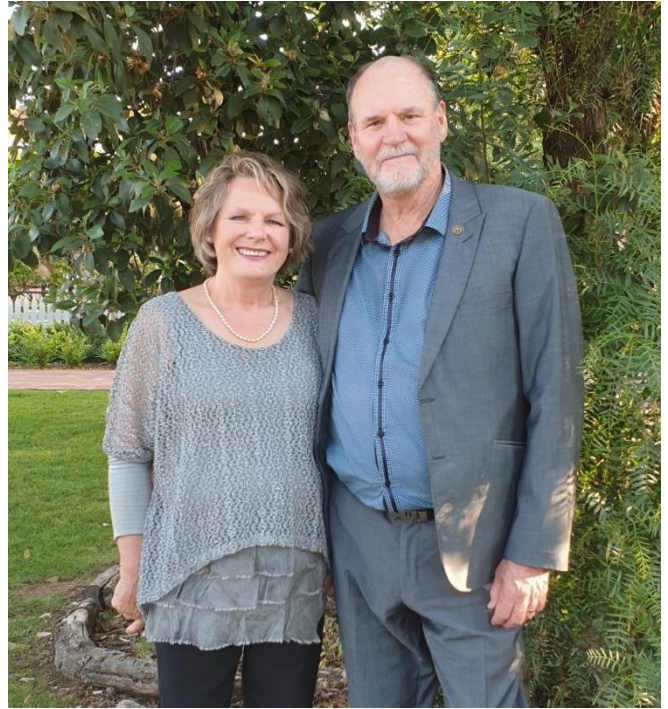


Vice District Governor Margie Thomas and Past District Governor David Thomas OAM

Margie Thomas has been married to PDG Dave Thomas OAM for 46 years. Together, they have raised a large and loving family—four children, nine grandchildren, and five great-grandchildren.

Margie began her career in her family's battery factory, producing batteries of all types. She later worked in the security industry, taking on roles that included alarm installation, debt collection, security guard duties, store detective work, and private investigation.

As Dave's career with South Australia Police progressed, the couple moved throughout the state, living in Coonalpyn, Port Augusta, Mount Gambier, and Naracoorte before eventually settling into retirement in Robe. During this time, Margie pursued a career in early childhood education, working as a childcare professional while studying for a Diploma in Early Childhood Education and Care.



In 2012, Margie joined Lions International and quickly stepped into the role of Club Secretary, despite having limited knowledge about the organisation at the time. She describes this early experience as a valuable lesson in leadership and service. Since then, her involvement with Lions has become a deeply rewarding part of her life. It has allowed her to travel, form lasting friendships, and contribute to meaningful projects that change lives across Australia and the world.

One of Margie's greatest passions within Lions is the Lions Assistance Dogs program. In 2015, she was honoured to be appointed as the C Districts Board Member for Australian Lions Hearing Dogs – serving for 10 years. In addition, she has also served as the C2 Cabinet representative.

As the Zone 10 Chairperson, Margie has travelled extensively to promote awareness of both hearing and diabetes assistance dogs, as well as the broader work of Lions International. She is excited to embrace a new challenge this year as part of the C2 District Governor Team.

Margie firmly believes that kindness and teamwork are key to achieving lasting impact. She looks forward to continuing her service alongside fellow Lions members in the years ahead.

Margie Thomas

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Vice District Governor Melinda Fogden and Lion Michael Fogden



Melinda was born in Bristol, England and emigrated to Australia with her family in 1972. After living in Adelaide for a short time, they moved to the Yankalilla district, where she has lived since.

Melinda worked locally in Yankalilla for most of her life, mainly with a company that provided services and products to the dairy and beef industries. She retired in December 2023 after more than twenty years of service to her last employer.

Melinda and Michael will celebrate 45 years of marriage in 2025. They have two daughters and three granddaughters. Their two sons-in-law create the gender balance in the family!

Melinda joined Lions in 2004 and has held many positions in her Club (President, VP and Secretary) and on the District Cabinet including Global Leadership Team (GLT) Coordinator, Global Services Team (GST) Coordinator, Zone 8 Chairperson, Centennial Coordinator and Convention Chairperson.

Michael has been a Lion for more than thirty years, holding many positions at Club and District level, and is very supportive of Melinda's election to Vice District Governor.

Melinda has always volunteered in some capacity and knows that now serving her community through Lions makes a difference and changes lives. She values the friendships and relationships she has developed as a Lion and the social side is an enjoyable part of her involvement in Lions so, is very much looking forward to meeting and getting to know many more Lions across the C2 District.

Melinda knows that District 201C2 is in a very healthy position and values the opportunity, as part of the District Governors' team, to continue the work by the team to make our diverse District and its Clubs even stronger. She recognizes that focussing on membership, based on the BAM (Big Audacious Mission); service, using the key global causes; and leadership, by providing training and support; are central to our District's continued success.

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