

He might have 20,000 of them but, as GRAHAM MADIGAN discovers on meeting Clive Reid, there's a lot more to pin collecting than little metal badges

PIN CRAZY



Clive Reid places another pin on his wall.

Australian pin traders are planning a big display at the Sydney International Convention

When you've got 20,000 Lions pins, why would you want any more?

That's a question often asked of W2 PDG Clive Reid.

Meeting Clive, you soon get the answer.

Clive Reid first put his line into the pin water more than 20 years ago while attending an International Lions conference. He had taken along a few unwanted pins to trade and stood in awe at the number of traders and pin tables assembled.

Clive ventured toward an American Lion who told him to "take what you want". After Clive stuffed his fist with a half dozen, the Yank said "Now what have you got? Nothing. Keep the pins – it's not the cost, pins don't matter. It's the people you meet that matter."

Looking back, Clive recalls that "tears streamed down my cheeks". "I will never forget it, and I use the same practice myself."

Pins open up a new world of developing friendships and camaraderie

Clive Reid was a charter member of the

Australian Pin Traders Club, operating since 1992 and planning a high presence at the Sydney International Convention in June this year.

Twenty six Lions formed the club which has a membership today of around 200 and 16 charter members still active as traders.

Clive has 10,000 pins all categorised and adorning five walls in his Billabong homestead in Boyanup, WA. Another 10,000 have yet to be sorted and placed in position.

Sydney will be Clive's 13th time at an international convention, including the UK, USA, South East Asia and Brisbane in 1991.

He says it's a time consuming hobby, involving about one day a week.

His oldest pin is dated 1930.

Clive reckons the best way to get started is to mint your own pin, because every serious pin trader will want one for their own collection.

Apart from pins there are convention patches and even cufflinks that came into vogue in 1969. There is even a Barack Obama pin. It's owned by Lion

Steven Yosimura who lives in Hawaii, the birthplace of the 44th U.S. President.

Lions pins are gradually replacing bannerettes, perhaps not so much in Australia but certainly overseas.

The first pins minted in Australia were in 1966, a convention pin with kangaroo, boomerang and map.

Every pin tells a story. In America in Nevada there are Elvis pins and one-arm bandit pins. Move to the Mid West and there are pins depicting agricultural farm machinery, tractors, ploughs and the like. In Motown in Detroit motor vehicles are featured. There are animals, birds and fish in Canada, along with trees, plants, minerals, gold and ore trains.

In Sydney there will be about 100 pin trading tables all with their own collections.

Trading can be like the AFL footy trading. A pin can be traded many times before it finally ends up with the recipient who needed it most.

If you want to get involved in the hobby, help is on its way. Email PDG Lance Leak on lanceleak@exemail.com.au. The rest is up to you.