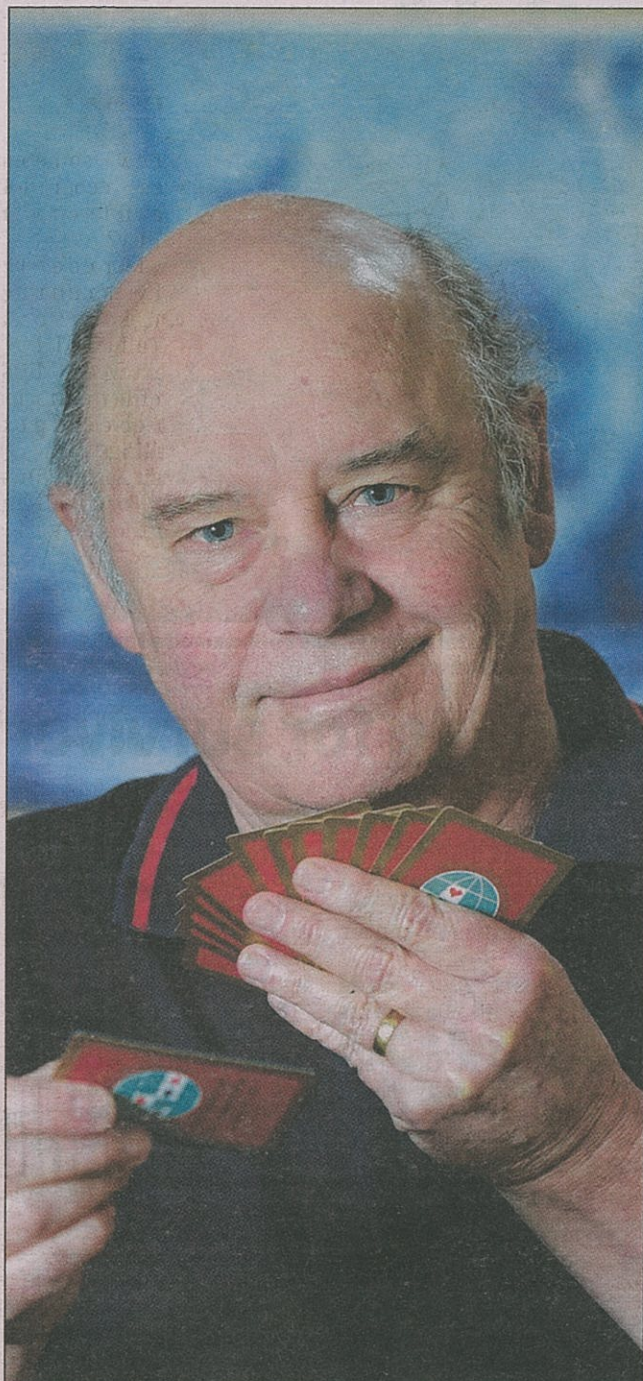


CAMPBELLTOWN



David Lusk has been awarded an Order of Australia Medal for service to the community and the game of bridge in the Queen's Birthday honours.

Picture: SAM WUNDKE

Bridge of learning leads to honour

YEARS SPENT TEACHING GAME

Daniela Abbracciavento

DAVID Lusk's passion for the game of bridge started with his parents.

But the Campbelltown resident never thought his 34-year commitment to the game or helping others excel at it would earn him one of Australia's highest honours.

"My parents used to play bridge which is why I started playing it," Mr Lusk says.

"I also used to play chess at school and they are both strategic games, but I enjoyed and found bridge more interesting."

Mr Lusk was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) for his service to the game of bridge as part of this week's Queen's Birthday honours.

Aged 18, Mr Lusk became involved with the South Australian Bridge Association and, in 1982 and aged 34, went on to become its youngest president. In 1987, he became the club's official teacher, helping other players develop skills. It was a role he held until his retirement last year.

"Teaching the game was something I wanted to do and it gave me lots of satisfaction out of helping people," he says.

"People gain an incredible amount of social skills and friendships are developed

"I would love to somehow break the award into tiny pieces and share it with all those who have helped

- David Lusk

throughout the game. Like any thinking game, you have to put a lot of mental energy into and it's challenge to get people up and running and making good decisions."

Mr Lusk's achievements also include:

- a general committee member of the South Australian Bridge Association 1975-1980
- the SA youth co-ordinator 1990-2005
- a South Australian Representative on the Australian Bridge Federation Council 1985-1987
- Australian Bridge Federation national youth co-ordinator 1999-2005
- co-editor of the Australian Bridge Federation Newsletter 1994-2006

"I think there are a lot of people that have done more and are more deserving of an award like this," he says.

"I had lots of support from so many people along the way. I would love to somehow break the award into tiny pieces and share it with all those who have helped and supported me."

QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY HONOURS

Member of the Order of Australia (AM)

■ **Gordon Geoffrey Cable**, of Marden, for significant service to aerospace medicine, as a practitioner, to public health education, and to professional medical bodies.

Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM)

■ **Denise Schumann**, of College Park, for service to

the community through cultural heritage preservation.

■ **Dr Jennifer Court**, of Norwood, for service to the community, particularly through Oxfam Australia.

■ **Jane Reilly**, of Norwood, for service to media and charity.

■ **David Lusk**, of Campbelltown, for service to the game of bridge.

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