

This is the Lovett Hub. But who is John Lovett?

John was born in Melbourne and attended the Victorian School for Deaf Children.

He became one of the most influential and well-known Deaf people, not just in Australia but around the world.

John recognised his ability to influence the Deaf community to come together here in Melbourne, across Australia and internationally.

He was the President of the Australian Deaf Sports Federation (now Deaf Sports Australia). He was a representative for the CISS, Deaflympics, and several other international Deaf sporting competitions.

John was the first Australian to serve as president of CISS and was truly one of the most influential members of the Deaf community worldwide.

John collaborated with Deaf individuals globally but remained a proud Australian and a dedicated ambassador for the Australian Deaf community.

Why did people look up to and respect John Lovett?

John travelled to London in 1965 to join the committee and returned home in 1967 with a strong vision for his influence. He observed that the Deaf community in London was more advanced, which surprised him.

He believed that the Deaf community here could achieve the same progress. John actively engaged with the community to involve them in decision-making.

People recognised that John's commitment to supporting the community began with his roles on various committees and as President of the Victorian Deaf Society (now Expression Australia).

He furthered this dedication as President of CISS, where he continued to work with and support Deaf people. John met many Deaf leaders from around the world, including Arthur Dimmock from England.

He built a close relationship with Jerald Jordan, the former American president of CISS.

John loved engaging with young Deaf leaders, encouraging them to contribute to the Deaf community.

He shared valuable advice with other Deaf leaders and travelled to Asia and Africa to guide them in establishing sporting organizations in their countries.

What legacy has John left?

First and foremost, the Deaflympics held in Melbourne in 2005, which was truly remarkable!

It's hard to imagine, but when John was young, there were very few Deaf people in leadership positions.

John inspired future Deaf leaders, including Robert Adam, Rebecca Adam, Brent Phillips, and Collin Allen. These leaders went on to inspire and influence even more Deaf individuals.

John demonstrated that the best decisions for the Deaf community involved the participation of Deaf individuals themselves.

How would John want to be remembered?

John wanted to be remembered as a Deaf man who always prioritised the Deaf community. He believed that decisions affecting the Deaf community should be made by Deaf individuals themselves.

He worked tirelessly, understanding that progress often comes in small steps rather than monumental changes.

John recognised that, despite being a leader, it was crucial to involve many voices from the Deaf community in decision-making.

We believe John would be very proud to see the Deaf community continuing to come together.