

MERLE SHORT SERVICE AWARD

NOMINEE: *DIANE WALLER*
ASSOCIATION: *DANDENONG*
YEAR AWARDED: *2010*



STATEMENT OF ACHIEVEMENTS:

Diane Waller's involvement in softball started in 1978 when she was a fill in for a junior girl's team - Oakwood Park. In 1979 she joined the Oakwood Park Club at Dandenong and has been involved in softball ever since. She played for 13 years, and as part of fulfilling team commitments she was required to base umpire and of course, nobody wanted to do it, so she began working with her husband Phil, as a young fit married woman in 1985.

She continued umpiring at Association Level at Dandenong until 1989 when she gained her Level 1 accreditation. Over the next few years she gained her Levels 2, 3 and 4. At the time at Dandenong there was a "buddy" mentoring system for umpires, and Rob Mitchell was Diane's buddy. Over the years she has umpired innumerable games with both Phil and Rob.

As Diane progressed up the ranks, she has always represented Dandenong at State Championships. In 1997 she attended her first National Championships as a Skillshare Umpire, which was an experience in itself. She has umpired at Nationals every year since then, and achieved her Level 5 in 1998 and her Level 6 in 2001.

Diane's career highlights include umpiring at the Beijing Olympic Games in 2008 and being announced as the 1st base umpire in the Gold Medal game between Japan and the USA. She has umpired at the World Masters Games in both Melbourne and Edmonton, Canada; and won a silver medal playing in the Dandenong Masters Women's team at the World Masters Games in Sydney in 2009.

