

MERLE SHORT SERVICE AWARD

NOMINEE: *KAREN STONE*
ASSOCIATION: *SUNSHINE*
YEAR AWARDED: *2009*



STATEMENT OF ACHIEVEMENTS:

ROLE	CLUB – Deer Park	ASSOCIATION - Sunshine	OTHER
<u>PLAYER:</u>	U12 U14 U16 A Grade B Grade		Masters – Dragons and Phoenix
<u>COACH:</u>	U12 U14 U16 A Grade B Grade C Grade Men's	Primary (U12/13) – 1990 U13 Girls – 1997 U13 Boys – 1998 U14 Boys – 1991 to 1993 U19 Women - 1998	Masters – Dragons and Phoenix
<u>ADMINISTRATION:</u>	President Vice President Treasurer Committee	Junior Committee, 1989 - 1992 Board Member, 1995 – 1996 Vice President, 1997 – 1999 Pennant Committee 1999	

1988 – Loyalty Award of Sunshine Softball Association

1997 – Life Membership of Sunshine Softball Association

Unknown Year - Life Membership of Deer Park Softball Club

SUPPORTING STATEMENT:

Sunshine has the pleasure in submitting sisters Karen Stone and Robyn Undy as nominees for Merle Short Service Awards. We believe that they are very deserving recipients that have dedicated the better part of 3 ½ decades to the game and while they are no longer actively involved they can be counted on at a moment's notice to come back and help out.

While they are both able players, they focussed their energy on recruiting and retaining the junior membership base as they realised that this would be the lifeblood of the clubs and the Association and was the only way to ensure the continued life and success of the Association.

They could be seen at countless delegates meetings putting the pressure on the other clubs to actively get out in the community and run clinics in the schools as it was the only way softball would survive. This shows that their passion for coaching kids began early and they spent many building the skill level of the juniors at Sunshine.

Their passion and enthusiasm for the game has enabled them to make lifelong friends and their loyalty to Club and Association is to be commended. Throughout the years their love and passion for the game have seen them:

- Be actively involved in all areas of the game as players, coaches, unofficial scorers, team managers and administrators
- Work tirelessly to recruit junior players and promote junior competitions within the Western Suburbs.
- Organise and run school clinics to achieve this
- Attend “Come and Try” days (even though no longer involved) and help plan, co-ordinate and run the activities for the blastball kids.
- Make themselves available to assist the Association whenever needed including:
 - a) If the regular blastball coaches are unavailable on any Saturday during the season, or
 - b) When Sunshine host Victorian or National Championships
- Play in Deer Park’s A and B Grade sides as well as junior teams
- Embrace the Master’s tournaments, playing and officiating for Sunshine Dragons and more recently Phoenix Masters team.
- Gain accreditation in coaching to enable them to coach at Championships
- Coach or Manage many Sunshine Representative teams throughout the years
- Coach Junior and Senior teams (male and female) for Deer Park
- Instil passion and enjoyment in the numerous children and adults that they have coached
- Provide all new participants (especially the children), with the basic skills to enable them to progress and develop as softballers
- Have pride in all the players they have coached (both at Junior and Senior level), especially those who went on to represent:
 - a) Victoria at the National Championships
 - b) Club teams in National Fastpitch competitions
- Have children and partners who have loved the game as much as they do
- Perform various roles on the Deer Park Committee for more than 20 years
- Become Sunshine Board members and take on roles of pennant committee, junior committee and Vice President
- Be presented with loyalty awards from the Sunshine Softball Association
- Attain Life Memberships of the Deer Park Softball Club and the Sunshine Softball Association

