

MERLE SHORT SERVICE AWARD

NOMINEE: *ELLEN DIMITREJVIC*

ASSOCIATION: *SUNSHINE*

YEAR AWARDED: *2010*



STATEMENT OF ACHIEVEMENTS:

	CLUB – Hiway	ASSOCIATION - Sunshine	OTHER
<u>Official</u>	Coach & Assistant Coach U14 and U17 boys Scorer U14, U17 boys, Men and Women Umpire local games when needed	Manager Both male and female teams in all age groups Scorer Open Men and Women U19 Men and Women U17 boys U14 boys	Level 3 accredited Scorer
<u>Administration</u>	Committee Member Treasurer since 1988	1990 – 2009 Treasurer	VSA Board member

SUPPORTING STATEMENT:

It is Sunshine's honour to nominate Ellen Dimitrijevic for a Merle Short service award. She has been a passionate and loyal advocate of the game for more than 20 years.

Ellen became involved in softball in 1986 as a result of providing a sport for her children (sons Corey and Grant) to play. Initially she and her husband Peter were content to be spectators and enjoyed watching them play, but soon their competitive nature took over and they got involved in coaching the boy's team.

Not long after beginning their coaching careers, she and Peter were responsible for gathering together a remarkable group of talented boys. Hiway's boy's team at this time were almost unbeatable as they had been instilled with a desire to succeed and taught that anything was possible if you wanted it and worked hard enough to get it.

Through hard training they provided the boys with the basic skill sets to enable them to one day become outstanding softballers. So many players in that team went on to play Nationals and one even played for Australia, a real credit to the time and commitment they put in.

She took particular pride in the achievements of her own boys as they both went on to play for Victoria, with Corey also going on to coach Victorian boys teams.

Eventually she left the coaching side to Peter and took up scoring. She loved that this was a way that she could continue to be closely involved in the game and so embraced it passionately. Soon she was scoring clubs games for both boys and girls and as a natural progression obtained her level allowing her to score for representative teams.

Over the years Ellen's contribution to Sunshine's Representative teams participating in Victorian Championships has been enormous. She has taken on the varying roles of Coach, Assistant Coach, Scorer or Manager for all age groups for both Men and Women, culminating in finally achieving a State Championship medallion as scorer for the Open Men in 2005.

In 1990 she 'volunteered' to take on the role of Treasurer of Sunshine, a position she held for 20 years before resigning earlier this year. During her time as treasurer she ruled the books with an iron fist ensuring Sunshine's ongoing financial viability. Often the board were told that they couldn't buy the TV etc that they wanted because it wasn't a necessity and it became a running joke among them to ask for silly things just so they could get a rise out of her and she could curb their spendthrift ways!

As an active member of Sunshine's board her role and duties were many and varied and include among other things serving in the canteen and behind the bar as well as attending numerous meetings. Ellen has managed to fulfil these duties and was still able to devote part of her time on a Saturday to her role as Treasurer of the Hiway Softball Club and as scorer of their A Grade Men's team. There have even been occasions where Ellen has volunteered to umpire local games.

Ellen even found the time to contribute to the game of softball on a larger scale as she was a member of the Victorian Softball Association board for a couple of years.

She has been an integral member of Sunshine for a very long time (acknowledged by Life memberships to both Hiway and Sunshine in that time) and while we will miss her contribution as Treasurer we thank her for commitment over the years and hope that she will continue to be involved in the game that has helped her make lifelong friends throughout the state.

