

MERLE SHORT SERVICE AWARD

NOMINEE: *ESTHER LIGHTOWLER*

ASSOCIATION: *SUNSHINE*

YEAR AWARDED: 2010



STATEMENT OF ACHIEVEMENTS:



	CLUB – Deer Park	ASSOCIATION - Sunshine	VICTORIA / OTHER
<u>Official</u>	Scorer	Coach Blastball children Manager and/or Bus Driver of numerous Championship teams over the years – all age groups Assistant Canteen manager	VSA Canteen manager for Nationals held at stadium Vic Championships Tournament Representative
<u>Administration</u>	Committee member President	President SSA 1989 – today	VSA Board member since 2003 VSA Championship sub committee representative Treasurer and Committee Member North West Softball League

SUPPORTING STATEMENT:

Sunshine has great pleasure in nominating Esther Lightowler for a Merle Short Service award. She has been the life blood of the Sunshine Softball Association since taking over as President in 1989. She is a loyal and passionate person who has dedicated nearly all of her spare time during the last 20 years to the sport of Softball.

Her involvement in softball began back in 1980 when her daughters first began playing for the Deer Park Softball Club.

Not being a parent who sat back it wasn't long before she became involved by joining the committee at Deer Park and scoring for the teams, and ultimately becoming the club's President.

While she helped out the teams, scoring was not a passion for her. Esther's leadership and organisational qualities soon came to the fore and she began managing Sunshine representative teams. This in turn led to her having the dual role of bus driver as well.

You could guarantee that no problems or situations would arise on Esther's watch as team manager. She expected exemplary behaviour from all involved in representative teams, ensuring that the reputation of both Sunshine and Softball as a whole wasn't tarnished in any way. She was quick to bring people into line if they were getting out of hand and her pre championship speeches as President are legendary!

By 1989 she had decided to take on the Presidency of Sunshine. She has held this role and provided direction to the Board ever since, (only having a one year break in 1997 to recharge her batteries).

She is a natural leader but also willing to get her hands dirty – thus she is always one of the first to turn up on a Saturday to help set up and one of the last to leave after washing the dishes in the canteen.

Not only does she spend her Saturdays working the canteen but she does this while juggling babysitting duties of her grandchildren allowing her daughters the chance to continue their playing careers in peace. Throughout the years Esther has successfully managed (or assisted) the catering for the local weekly competition at Sunshine and the stadium, numerous Victorian Championships, State League competitions, Nationals hosted by Sunshine or Victoria, and many schools competitions (midweek and weekends).

She is an integral member of the Sunshine Softball Association who works long and hard to ensure its continuing success. She and her board have just achieved a long held goal of obtaining lighting for one of the diamonds. This may not have occurred without her drive and commitment to the project!

In 2003/2004 Esther joined the Softball Victoria board and began serving the sport of softball on a larger scale and has been working tirelessly ever since. She joined the VSA Championship sub-committee and has also been Tournament Rep at many of the tournaments throughout the years.

Her role on the VSA Board has also seen her give up a number of long weekends in June to assist in running the masters tournament. A huge commitment given the state of the weather at some of these tournaments!

Having never been a player has in no way diminished her contribution to the game of Softball. She has been an enthusiastic and dedicated member of SSA for many years (attaining Life Memberships in 2005). She loves being part of such a wonderful sport and would become bored and miss the endearing friendships she has made throughout the years. I have no doubt she will continue her long association with softball for many more years to come.

