

MERLE SHORT SERVICE AWARD

NOMINEE: *MERV LARTER*

ASSOCIATION: *KNOX*

YEAR AWARDED: 2003



STATEMENT OF ACHIEVEMENTS:

Merv's association with softball began in the early 1980's as a parent transporting his children to play. He started playing himself in the winter season of 1986 and continued to play each year with various clubs until 1991 when he organised the first men's team of the Heathmont Raiders Softball Club. The club still continues to field a men's team each winter season. He was also an original member of the 1994 Knox Men's World Masters Team and played in several Knox Masters Teams until 1997.

Merv's major connection with softball has been with the Heathmont Softball Club where he has been a committee member (including Vice President and President) on and off for the past 15 years. He has represented the club as coach, umpire, player, Knox & District Softball Association delegate and junior recruiting officer for the past two years.

In 1987/88 Merv first began to umpire on a regular basis at Knox and continues to the present day. During the past sixteen years he has represented the Association at Victorian Championships on a regular basis. During this time he first attained his Level 1 accreditation in 1991 and Level 2 in 1992. Merv has served on the Knox & District Softball Umpires Association committee since he began umpiring. He has held positions as a committee member, President and Vice President. His major responsibility during this time has been the summer season umpire allocations.

Merv began attending Knox & District Softball Association committee meetings as part of his club's requirements during the late 1980's. In the early 1990's he was elected to the committee as the winter competition manager and arranged fixtures for the competition for approximately 25 teams. After this, Merv also undertook the role of Publicity Officer for the Association whereby he sends results to daily and local newspapers each week. During the



past six years he has also been responsible for organising the association trophies for both the summer and winter competitions.

He has been regularly involved in grounds development and improvement since the early 1990's and has been a regular attendee at grounds working bees. He has been heavily involved in grounds maintenance during the past few years since his retirement from work and more particularly during the period of the World Masters Games.

Merv participated in the Planning Committee for the World Masters Games and was actively involved in setting up the facilities and ensuring the maintenance of playing and general equipment.

During the past ten years Merv has been actively involved with the School Sport Victoria. He actively liaises with the school sports departments, organises umpires and sets up the diamonds. During this time the Association has hosted district and eastern zone finals and since 1995 has hosted the state finals of the secondary schools competition.

It is a combination of all of the above that the Knox & District Softball Association feel that Merv would be a worthy recipient of the Merle Short Service Award.

