

MERLE SHORT SERVICE AWARD

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



STATEMENT OF ACHIEVEMENTS:

Phil “Angry” Waller’s involvement in softball started in 1983 when he the coach of the Oakwood Park B Grade Women’s team playing at Dandenong. Every team was required to supply an umpire and of course, nobody wanted to do it, so he began his umpiring career in 1984, as a young unmarried man with hair. He continued umpiring at Association level at Dandenong until 1989 when he gained his Level 1 accreditation.

He continued coaching and was umpiring at an Association Level at Dandenong until 1995 when his by then wife Diane retired from playing and he stopped Coaching. At this stage he thought that he might hang up his boots until some well-directed words of advice from Lyn Bishop, a level 8 umpire from Dandenong, suggested that he should continue umpiring and strive for his Level 2, which he achieved in 1996.

As Phil progressed up the ranks, he has always represented Dandenong at State Championships. In 1999 he attended his first National Championships as a Skillshare Umpire, which was a whole new ball game for him. He has umpired at Nationals every year since then, and achieved his Level 6 in 2004 at Open Men Nationals.

His career highlights include umpiring at the World Masters in both Melbourne and Edmonton, Canada; and being appointed as a Trans-Tasman Exchange umpire in New Zealand in February 2009. He also had the Plate on an international game – Under 19 Women Test series Australia and New Zealand – this game was streamed live on the internet. He also Assistant Coached the Dandenong Masters Women’s team to a silver medal at the World Masters Games in Sydney, so all he has left to do is play in a World Masters Games.

