

Greater Shepparton Sports Hall of Fame



Nominee Profiles - overview

Compiled by the Greater Shepparton Sports Hall of Fame Advisory Committee

Greater Shepparton Sports Hall of Fame Inductees

Stacey Collier: Lawn Bowls

Stacey has been a top performer in bowls since 1992. She commenced playing at junior level and took time away from the sport to have a family. She represented Australia on the world stage and was World under 25 Singles champion in 2000. She won the State under 18 Singles Championship in 1988, the Australian under 18 junior singles in 1999 along with the Victorian Singles and fours in 2000. Stacey has won 8 GV titles.

Terrie Crozier: Lawn Bowls

Terrie Crozier grew up in Shepparton, the daughter of Shepparton's best known all round sportswoman Peg Curtis. She followed her mother's interests, not only as a player but as an administrator and an umpire. Terrie represented Shepparton as a softball and netball player prior to joining the Shepparton Bowling Club and advancing to become a bowls official and an umpire. She took to officialdom with much enthusiasm and rose through the ranks of regional titles, state titles and was so successful that she umpired in the 2006 Melbourne Commonwealth Games. Terrie transferred to the Northern Territory where she excelled as a player winning State Championships in Singles, Pairs, Triples and Fours. As well as playing she became accredited as an international technical officer by World Bowls. She officiated in International championships and was elevated to umpire in the world bowls championships. It was a wonderful effort for Shepparton to have such a well-known sporting name involved at the top of world bowls.

Leigh Egan: BMX Cycling

Leigh was known as the master of BMX as soon as the BMX Club was formed in Shepparton in 1980. By 1983 he began winning Victorian titles and by 1984 he won 2 world titles taking out his class as well as the world open men's class. He was Australia's first ever Elite Men's BMX Champion. He dominated Australian BMX racing and won 3 consecutive National titles.

Narelle Gosstray: Baseball

Narelle grew up in the Goulburn Valley and played Basketball, Volleyball, Badminton, Tennis, Indoor cricket, Netball and Softball, representing Greater Shepparton in each as she was growing up. Narelle started playing Softball at 14 representing Shepparton at under 17 and senior levels. However when she moved to Melbourne to study she became involved in Baseball and used her softball skills to help her baseball. She was selected in the inaugural Australian Women's Baseball team in 2001 and since then has donned many representative caps as a player, Coach and as an Administrator for Victoria, New South Wales, NT and Australia. She has travelled internationally representing Australia as a player and has been a coach at world level.

Julie Gross: Basketball

Julie Gross grew up in Tatura and played basketball at Shepparton High School and represented the Goulburn Valley and Victoria. She was elevated into the Australian team and played for her country in two world championships (Columbia in 1975 and South Korea in 1975) whilst competing in the world titles she came under notice of the American teams and she was awarded a scholarship to attend Louisiana State University. Julie performed brilliantly in her first year playing basketball for Louisiana State and became the Universities

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first player to be selected in the “All American” team. Gross had a wonderful career with LSU and finished her career as the all- time leading rebounder in LSU history and was second on the all - time scoring list. Julie and her friend Maree Bennie were the first Australian females to win All – American honours whilst playing College Basketball in the United States.

Stephen King: AFL

In the early 1990’s the talented young Shepparton ruckman Steven King was selected to play for the Murray Bushrangers. Steven was a giant of a young man who in 1996 developed into a 201 cm and 102 Kilogram Geelong player. He was honoured with wearing the no1 jersey. King had great capacity to learn ruck skills at the Cats. He had strong aerobic capacity, fleetness of foot and was a strong mark. By the year 2000 he was in top form and won Geelong’s Best Player award. He capped the season off with “All Australian” selection. He also won the Geelong Best Player award in 2002. King showed great leadership and won the honour of captaining the Cats. He has the interesting honour of playing in Geelong AFL and VFL 2007 premiership teams in 7 days. He played a total of 240 games of AFL football. Following his playing days he became an AFL assistant coach.

Jarrold Lyle: Golf

There has been one golfer from Shepparton who has appeared on the world stage. Jarrod Lyle came to notice as a teenager and performed well enough to win a place in the Australian Open Tournament. This gave him the opportunity to enter the international arena and he became the first Shepparton golfer to appear on the world circuit. Unfortunately Jarrod contracted Leukaemia which interrupted his career. He steadfastly progressed and won his first International tournament the Mexican Open. He played in the US Open and many other top line tournaments. Jarrod won praise from some of the world’s top golfers as he fought his illness to play the game he loved. He was very positive but succumbed to his illness and Australia lost a young hero as a golfer.

Dennis Myers: Sprint Car Racing

Dennis was attracted to sprint car racing when he watched his father drive sprint cars around circuits in the Goulburn Valley. He rose through the ranks to be contesting races against the best drivers in the Nation. He has won hundreds of races representing the GV Auto Club and won the Australian title for Midget Sprint cars twice. He was runner up 4 times and third 4 times. At a state level he was Victorian champion on 6 occasions and also won the N.S.W. championship. In 2009 and 2010 he was selected as Victorian driver of the year. The G.V. Auto Club bestowed the honour of Life membership and “Legend” on Dennis

Emma O’Keeffe: Sport Aerobics

Emma is an exponent of sport aerobics which she has been involved in for much of her life. She loves the sport and has worked hard to perform at the World Championships. She has won gold at the Victorian Championships and the Australian Championships. She has represented Australia in International competition in New Zealand, winning gold in 2012, 2013 and 2015; and won at the World Championships in 2014. She still competes in competition aerobics and has coached school age students to be successful in Victorian and Australian competitions.

Steele Sidebottom: AFL

Steele Sidebottom was a top player with the Murray Bushrangers who were playing in the grand final of the TAC cup as a curtain raiser to the 2008 AFL Grand Final. Steele excelled

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that day in kicking ten goals, a feat that was well noticed by the talent scouts. He was selected in the "All Australian" under 18 team and was on the way to a stellar career. Collingwood took him as pick number 11 in the 2008 draft and Steele became a magpie. He made his debut in round 9 in 2009 and soon settled into the team as a worthy midfielder. Steele played in both the drawn Grand Final and the replay in 2010 and became a Collingwood Premiership player – the youngest player in the team. Steele has twice won the coveted Copeland trophy as the magpie's best player as well as winning the Anzac Day medal in 2016. He was selected as the Collingwood vice-Captain and won a place in the 2018 All Australian team. He was also runner up in the 2018 Brownlow medal. Steele has amassed 243 games and has kicked 166 goals.

John Sutherland: Trap Shooting

A shooter who took up the sport of trap shooting whilst shooting on his Katandra property, amazed the world with his accuracy and ability for over 50 years as he won 103 championships and held the world record for the number of targets shot in one competition. Interestingly he didn't shoot under his own name John Sutherland but used the name "Calrossie" as his professional name. His first shoot was in Shepparton in 1895 as a young man and he soon made a name for himself on the world stage at the home of International trap shooting, Monte Carlo. He travelled around Australia and won 16 State Championships. Internationally he was referred to as the best shot on the planet.

Raelee Thompson: Cricket

Raelee grew up in Shepparton and joined the Victorian Police Force in 1971. She played women's cricket in Melbourne and rose to play International cricket for Australia from 1972 to 1985. She was captain of the Australian team in the 1984/85 series against England in which Australia won 2 tests to 1. She was a member of the Australian team which won the World Cup in India in 1979 and in New Zealand in 1982. She also played for Victoria and took a hat trick against New South Wales. Raelee also served as an Australian and Victorian selector and is a delegate to the Australian Women's Cricket Council.

Bryan Thomson: Motor Racing

In the years between 1960 and 2000 when Shepparton people spoke of Motor racing the name Bryan Thomson would be at the forefront. Bryan became a well-known racing driver as he sat behind the wheel of a number of different cars in a number of different classes. He was the first Shepparton race driver to compete overseas and drive against the leaders in Australian motor sport. He competed in all the major races and won the Australian Sports Sedan GT championship. He drove into 3rd place in the James Hardy 12 hour event at Bathurst and was 3rd in the Sandown 250. He competed in the Australian endurance championships, the Australian Sports Car championships and the Australian Touring Car Championships. He also drove in Formula One. Bryan drove cars for 40 years and was the pride of the Goulburn Valley in his Toyota's, Commodores, Ford Sierra's, Chevrolet's, Holden Monaro's and Torana's. He was Mister Motor Sport in the Goulburn Valley.

Stephen Tingay: AFL

Football followers in Shepparton took notice when a blond haired dasher for Shepparton Football Club Stephen Tingay started to show his brilliance. Stephen was soon snapped up by AFL recruiters and found himself with the Melbourne Demons in 1989. They were impressed with his talent, his pace and his determination. He developed into a highly skilled

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wing player who was adored by the Demons members. His career was disrupted by a fall through a plate glass window which badly injured his thigh. By 1993 he was established as a top Melbourne player and won selection in the Victorian team. This led to him being named as an All Australian in 1994. He played 162 games for the Demons and kicked 84 goals.

David Waite: Volleyball

The sport of Volleyball produced an Australian player in the 1980's and 90's. David Waite commenced playing the sport in 1982 when he played for his school and progressed through to represent the association, the State and eventually the National team.

His commitment to the sport is evident by the number of times he was selected in the Australian Open men's team for international events. He was capped for his country on 260 occasions during his ten year playing career. David was a recipient of two scholarships to the Australian Institute of sport. He maintained his high standard of play throughout his competition days and will be recognised as the best volleyball exponent Shepparton has produced.

Adem Yze: AFL

One of the earliest players of Albanian origin to play AFL football Adem Yze was recruited by Melbourne Demons in 1995 and had an outstanding career amassing a total of 271 senior games and kicking 234 goals over a 13 year playing career. Adem won the best first year player award with Melbourne and was a rising star nomination. In 2001 he won Melbourne's best player award and followed in 2002 by being selected as an "All Australian". He was the leading kick getter in the AFL in 2001, 2002 and 2004. His career was helped by his lack of injuries which allowed him to play 226 games consecutively. Following his playing career he became an assistant coach with the Hawthorn Club for 8 years and has now been appointed as an assistant coach with his former club Melbourne.

Greater Shepparton Sports Hall of Fame Honour Roll Inductees

Aiden Blizzard: Cricket

Aiden is the first cricketer from Shepparton to play International cricket. He came to notice as a top prospect when he played for Shepparton Youth Club in local cricket. He always wanted to be a professional cricketer and worked hard to perform with the Richmond Club in Melbourne. This gave him the opportunity to come under notice of state selectors he has played for Victoria, South Australia and Tasmania at Sheffield Shield and one day level. He was contracted to Cricket Victoria from 2004 – 2010 South Australian Cricket from 2010 – 2012. He played cricket in India and was picked up by the Mumbai Indians for 5 seasons of 20/20 cricket. This gave him the opportunity to play with some of the best in the game including Sachin Tendulca. Aiden loved the short game which gave him the chance to use his brilliant batting style. He played for the Sydney Thunder, the Canterbury Kings, the Hobart Hurricanes and the Adelaide strikers. He played in 7 teams that won Big Bash titles including the Mumbai Indians and the Bangladesh National League. Cricket has taken him all over the world and seen him perform well with the best.

Matthew Higgins: Hockey

At 19 years of age he moved to Melbourne to play for the Altona Club and soon won a place in the Australian Institute of Sport. His performances with Altona impressed the State selectors and he won selection in the Victorian hockey team where he would play 108 games between 1999 and 2008. Matthew was also named in the Victorian "All Stars" team.

Throughout his career he won three best player awards and was runner up three times.

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Barry Myers: Speedway Racing

Barry was regarded as the best speedway driver in North Eastern Victoria in the 1970's winning the highest class of speedway to become the Victorian sprint car champion. He was 4 times North Eastern Zone champion and 6 times GV Auto Club champion.

Val Sutherland: Netball

Val has given over 60 years' service to Shepparton and Goulburn Valley Netball as a player, coach, umpire, administrator, Country Week manager and selector, tournament organiser, as well as being Association President, Secretary and treasurer.

Tom Spark (OAM): Squash

Tom has been Victorian Masters Champion 16 times, Australian Masters Champion 12 times. In 1994 he won the World Masters championship in the 35 – 39 age group and in 1991 he was the World Masters Champion of Champions in the 45 – 49 age group.

Doug Tuhan: Athletics

The Murchison 10k event was conducted for over 40 years with Doug at the helm. Doug trained many athletes to prepare for events such as Stawell and Wangaratta. He has been involved in football with the Murchison Club and the KDFL. He has umpired football and advised umpires for 27 years.

Greater Shepparton Sports Hall of Fame Junior Honour Roll Inductees

Sam Brown – Dance Sport

Sam has been a fantastic success as an exponent of Dance Sport.

At the age of 10 Sam received a rural and regional scholarship from Dance Sport Victoria and since that time has progressed incredibly to win championships at a local and state level, Interstate and represented Australia in the world championships.

Sam has achieved the highest standard in all age groups he has danced in and is acknowledged by DanceSport Australia and DanceSport Victoria as one of the shining stars of DanceSport in the country.

Connor Holland – Hockey

Connor came to prominence in junior hockey in Shepparton as a member of the Strikers Club. His talent stood out and he gained the opportunity to represent the Goulburn Valley at the under 13 level and from there has gone on to be in many representative teams He also played for Essendon Hockey Club as a junior and progressed to play Premier League at 14. He also played in the Strikers 2017 and 2018 premierships. He was selected in the Victorian team in 5 age groups. His form saw him represent Australia internationally in South Africa and Europe.

Alan Rossignoli – Badminton

Alan rose to prominence as a junior Badminton player in the 1960's. Playing for the St. Andrews Club, he won the Association singles, doubles and mixed doubles championships which gave him the experience to try out at the state titles where he was selected to represent his state and be a part of a National Championship winning team.

He was selected to play an exhibition match in front of Prince Charles and Princess Anne at the Albert Park centre in 1970 and in 1972 played in an exhibition match at the opening of the Shepparton Sports Stadium. In 1974 he excelled by winning the Triple Crown of

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Championships, the singles, doubles and mixed doubles. He also captained the inaugural Victorian under 21 badminton team.

Xavier Russell – Clay Target Shooting

Xavier was introduced to Clay target shooting by his grandfather and within a few years as a junior shooter has reached a standard which saw him competing at world level. He won his first junior National title in 2017 and by 2019 he was a part of a three man team to shoot for Australia in England where he won bronze in the team event. He also won bronze at the World English sporting championships. He was the overall junior national champion in 2017 and in 1918 was the Australian Clay Target Association Junior champion. He has won championships in Australia and New Zealand.