



Shoalhaven Hall of Sporting Fame

John McLean

Shoalhaven Elite Athlete



*J*ohn McLean holds a string of honours in Australian cycling history, stemming from a 40 year career in the sport. Raised in a well-known cycling family with five brothers, John resided in the Shoalhaven for 38 years.

At just 18 John achieved the honour of being the only cyclist to hold all NSW League of Wheelmen Road and Track Championships at the same time in the history of the organisation. His parents Keith and Ivy were Life Members of the Nowra Cycle Club and four of the boys were cycling enthusiasts. In one memorable NSW race all brothers rode from 'scratch' together - John in Seniors, Ken in Juniors, Robert in Juveniles and David in Novice. Brother David went on to win four state titles and ranked second in Australia three times.

At Nowra High School John was an all-rounder, representing school and district in rugby league, basketball and cricket. Further to this John was school Swimming Champion, athletics Age Group Champion and record holder for several years, running in the 1 mile and 800m.

John is well known in the region for his South Coast Register column, Cycle Circles. He retired from coaching in 2006 after 50 years in the sport.

Achievements

- Seeded No. 1 in Australia 1959-1960
- Australian Championships 15 x 2nd/3rd place 1959 - 1994
- International 6-day Racing 1961
- State and National Cycling 1956 - 1995
- Winner 11 Australian Open Race Wins 1959 - 1993

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Cristine Elizabeth Suffolk

Shoalhaven Elite Athlete



Cristine has competed internationally for 26 years. At 18 she ran for the first time in New Zealand, taking 1st place in the Circular 7 Mile. She has represented Australia at the Asia Pacific Games for the Deaf, in Malaysia, earning 3 silver medals and in Germany, taking 4th & 5th place.

Since 2003 Cristine has achieved outstanding success competing against hearing athletes at World Masters Championships, earning 1-3 Gold, as well as a string of other medals, at each. She competed in Canada 2005, Townsville 2008, Tahiti 2010, New Zealand 2012.

Her greatest achievement was selection to the Australian World Masters Team for the World Masters Championships in Brazil, where she won Bronze in 2013.

8km being her favourite distance, Cristine has won this Cross Country in all states and territories of Australia against hearing athletes, many times over.

Born deaf 5 weeks early, Cristine was not expected to survive. She did not walk till age 2. At 10 years of age she represented East Nowra Public School for cross country and from that moment has been driven with a passion for the sport, to compete at every opportunity. She is very grateful for the support and encouragement throughout, from the Nowra Athletics Club.

Achievements

- Australian World Masters Team, Brazil 2013 Bronze
- World Masters Championships 2005 Gold, Silver, 2 Bronze
- Oceania Masters Championships 2008, 2010, 2012 8 Gold, 7 Silver
- Asia Pacific Games for the Deaf, Malaysia 3 Silver
- World International Deaf Track & Field Championships, Germany 4th & 5th place

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Luke Ross Raymond O'Donnell

Shoalhaven Elite Athlete



Luke O'Donnell's professional Rugby League career has spanned over 15 years, after debuting with the Balmain Tigers in 1999. Luke played for a number of clubs throughout this period, turning out for the Wests Tigers, North Queensland Cowboys, Huddersfield Giants in the UK, and finally signing with the Sydney Roosters in February 2013 where he featured in the Premiership winning side.

Luke was twice awarded North Queensland Cowboys Season's Player of the Year and was also selected for the 2010 NRL All Stars Game while he was also named in the Kangaroos Squad for the 2008 Rugby League World Cup.

In a long representative career, Luke played 3 City vs Country matches, 6 State of Origin games and 11 Test Matches for Australia, as well as playing in the UK Exiles team to represent AUS/NZ in 2011. Luke has also played a total of 215 first grade games including 188 in the NRL.

Luke's sporting achievements began while playing for Milton Junior Rugby League under 10's. He joined the Illawarra Sports Academy in 1996, winning the Kevin Walsh Scholarship in 1997 and became NSW CHS Team Captain in 1998. In his teens, Luke was a member of the Mollmook Surf Club, patrolling beaches at Narrawallee and Mollmook and won medals at State Level for surf lifesaving.

Achievements

- Balmain Tigers 1999
- North Queensland Cowboys 2004-10
- Runners-up NRL Grand Final 2005
- Team of the Century 2008
- Season Player of the Year 2006, 2009
- Kangaroos, Rugby World Cup 2008
- NSW State of Origin 6 Games
- UK Exiles to represent Aus/NZ 2011 (whilst playing in the UK Super League)
- Wests Tigers 2000-03
- Sydney Roosters 2013
- Winner NRL Grand Final
- NRL All Stars Game 2010
- City vs Country 3 Games
- Test Matches for Australia 11 Games
- Huddersfield Giants 2011-12

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Ashleigh Hewson

Shoalhaven Elite Athlete



*A*n all-round athlete, Ashleigh Hewson was named Zone Athletics Champion at Jervis Bay Primary School and represented South Coast and Vincentia High Schools in touch football, cricket, athletics, cross country and soccer at zone and state level.

At 16 Ashleigh was awarded the Laurie Constantine Trophy for Most Outstanding Representative in Secondary School Sport. Ashleigh went on to captain New South Wales in the 1998 Soccer State Championships in Adelaide before being selected in the Australian Women's Training Squad for the 2000 Sydney Olympics.

With a fondness for contact sport, Ashleigh returned to rugby in 2008 and was selected to play with the Wallaroos in the Women's Rugby World Cup, England. Ashleigh was again selected for the 2014 Women's Rugby World Cup in Paris, scoring several tries from her position at full back. Ashleigh was selected players' player at the World Cup by her fellow Wallaroo teammates.

Sporting Achievements

- 1998 Soccer - State Championships - Captain NSW
- 1999-2000 Soccer - Australian Women's Matilda Training Squad
- 2008, 2012, 2013 Rugby Union - ACT & Sydney, National Rugby Championships
- 2010, 2014 Rugby Union - Wallaroos, Women's Rugby World Cup

Awards

- 2010 Player of the Season NSW & Players' Player ACT National Championships
- 2012 Player of the Year for Sydney University
- 2014 Players' Player Wallaroos, Women's Rugby World Cup

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Josh Sanders

Shoalhaven Elite Athlete



Joshua Peter Sanders is regarded as one of the country's wakeboarding living legends. His raw natural talent and tireless work ethic have won him some of the world's top contests and awards and seen him included in the Australian Wakeboard Hall of Fame.

In 2005 Josh was USA Pro Wakeboard Tour Champion and King of Wake Champion in the first ever world series event.

Josh has pioneered new terrain internationally, being the first boarder to ride over icebergs in Newfoundland, the world's longest rail slide over-land in Egypt and over a house-boat on the Shoalhaven. Josh was also the first boarder to tow-in to the world's most dangerous wave, Teahupoo at 19 years of age.

Josh has resided in Nowra for 14 years, during which time he has played an integral part in teaching people how to wakeboard and growing wakeboarding in Australia. He has run the Wakeboard School on the Shoalhaven River in Nowra for 14 years.

Achievements

- World Champion 2005 Ranked no. 1
- King of Wake 2005 First and only Australian to win, to date
- US Pro Wakeboard Tour 2005 First and only Australian to win, to date
- Top 5 in the world 1999-2009
- Australian National Champion 2013
- US Open 2000 1st - First Australian to compete internationally
- Surf Teahupoo, Tahiti 2000 1st place
- 120ft Rail Over Water, Nowra 2006 World record
- 100ft Rail Over Land, Egypt 2008 World record
- Wakeboard Icebergs, Newfoundland 2010 World record, World-1st feat

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Peter William Gilford

Shoalhaven Elite Athlete



*P*eter Gilford has competed successfully in a huge range of Special Olympics events for over 20 years. Previously competing in generic sports, including modball, soft ball, tennis and little athletics, up to the age of 14 with his twin brother Christopher, he has always demonstrated spirit and determination despite constant disadvantage.

At 14 years of age Peter commenced competition with the regional Special Olympics organisation, participating in tennis, swimming, athletics, ten pin bowling and basketball. His perseverance and determination have brought him a wide variety of sporting achievements and his enthusiasm has seen him participate in many fundraising swim-a-thons in Sydney.

Peter came to Bawley Point, Shoalhaven with his family in 2006 becoming affiliated with Special Olympics Flinders Region.

Sporting Achievements

2013 Asia Pacific Games - Silver Shot Put, Bronze 100m

National Special Olympic Games

- 2014 Gold Turbo Javelin, Silver Shot Put, Silver 4x100m relay, Bronze 100m
- 2010 Gold 400m, Gold Shot Put, Bronze, 100m, Bronze 4x100m relay
- 2008 Gold 200m Breaststroke
- 2002 Gold Discus, Silver, Long Jump, Bronze, 100m
- 1998 Gold Athletics
- 1994 3xBronze Tennis
- Futsal National Champion - 1999, 1998, 1997 Runner-Up
- Australian Junior Cerebral Palsy Class Record - 100m swimming medley

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Blake William Nolan

Shoalhaven Elite Athlete



*B*lake Nolan has been competing in international Judo competitions since commencing in the sport in 2007. In this time, Blake has won numerous medals representing NSW at the Australian National Championships and the Australian Kata Championships.

At age 16, Blake was selected as a reserve on the National Talent Identification and Development team, and represented Australia at the 2012 Oceania Judo Championships held in Cairns. This honour has been followed by a string of 1st place international achievements, representing Australia with distinction.

Again at just 16, in 2012 he was the first junior male in Judo NSW to be awarded the Junior Gold referee licence and is a junior coach at Yuukan Judo Club, Bawley Point.

Achievements

- Australian Bronze National Champion: Current
- NSW State Champion: Current
- Country Champion: Current
- Australian National Kata Championships: 1st in 2013, 2012-2014
- Australian Oceania Judo Championship, Cairns: 3rd, 4th, 2012 & 2013
- New Zealand Open, Auckland: 1st, 2012
- International Open Championships: 1st in NSW, QLD, SA and VIC, 2009-2014
- 7 Australian National Championships: 1x 2nd, 7x 3rd, 2008-2014

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Adam Federici

Shoalhaven Elite Athlete



*B*orn in Nowra, Adam Federici began his footballing career with the Huskisson Vincentia Seagulls at six years of age.

Previously representing the city of Shoalhaven and Southern Branch, Adam continued his success representing New South Wales at the National Youth Championships between 1998 - 2001, before being awarded a two year scholarship with the Australian Institute of Sport in 2002.

Following the whirlwind start to his career, Adam represented Australia through the Young Socceroos under 20's side in 2005 and the Under 23's World Cup side in 2008. Adam was then selected to play for Australia at the 2008 Beijing Olympic Games Team and the 2010 World Cup (South Africa). He has played for clubs in Italy and the UK, currently playing for Reading in the English Championship, where he has made over 200 appearances in goals.

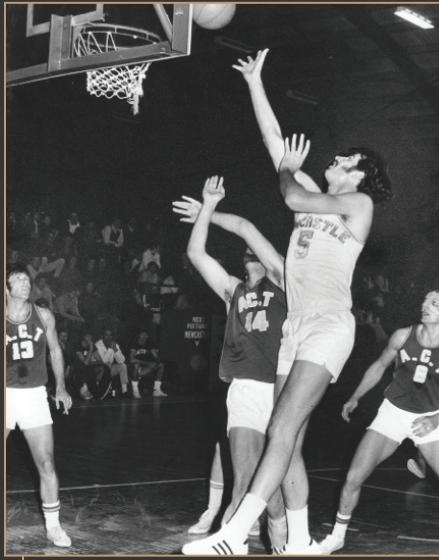
Upon return to the Shoalhaven Adam always visits the Huskisson Vincentia Seagulls and offers advice and coaching to up and coming goalkeepers.

Achievements

- National Youth Championships 1998-2001
- Australian Institute Sport 2002
- World Cup U/20's, 5 apps 2005
- World Cup U/23's, 5 apps 2008
- Beijing Olympic Games, 5 apps 2008
- Australian National Team, Socceroo's 2010-current
- World Cup, South Africa 2010
- Reading 2006-current
- Player of the Round, 5th Round 2007 FA Cup
- Championship Winners 2012

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Phil Lynch

Shoalhaven Elite Athlete



*P*hil Lynch was born in Nowra and played basketball in the Shoalhaven until the age of 20 when he was recruited by the national coach, Dr John Raschke, to join his state champion Newcastle team.

The 205cm Centre soon became a fixture in NSW teams, where he set a record for games played and was a member of the Australian squad from 1972-1976. He was named first reserve for the Munich Olympics.

Upon returning to Bomaderry in 1976, Phil rejoined the Shoalhaven Tigers team that narrowly lost the state final.

Upon retirement he commenced commentating the National Basketball League on WIN TV in 1979, quickly becoming the nation's leading basketball commentator. He anchored network television coverage for four Olympic Games - Los Angeles, Seoul, Atlanta and Sydney, along with four world championships.

Phil developed a career in journalism as Sports Editor of Prime Television and became a respected all round commentator in Australia and internationally on sports as diverse as golf, hockey and snooker.

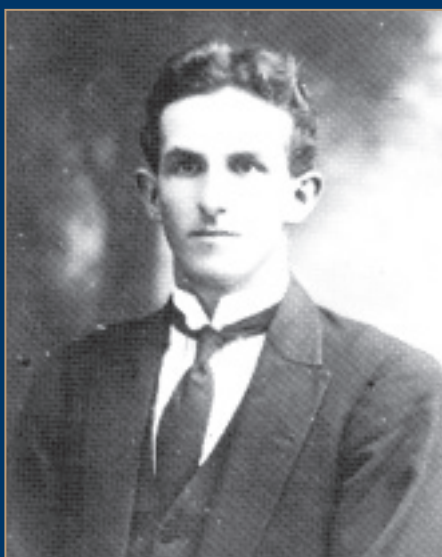
He was treasurer of the Shoalhaven Sports Foundation and the founding chairman of the Bernie Regan Memorial Sporting Trust. He maintains links with his hometown as MC of the Shoalhaven Sports Star of the Year awards, over the past 30 years.

Awards:

- Australian Sports Medal
- ACT Sports Star of the Year Contribution to Sport Award
- Centenary of Federation Medal

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John Aubrey Clive 'Toby' Bice

Shoalhaven Sporting Hero



*J*ohn Aubrey Clive Bice (1896-1965), 'Toby' has scored more runs and taken more wickets than any other player in the history of the Shoalhaven District Cricket Association.

The youngest of five brothers to play with Pyree, Toby made his debut with Nowra Club Cadets at the age of 14 years in 1910.

Toby excelled in every facet of the sport, and was a dominant player in 12 premierships victories. Two world wars cut into his career, yet almost 50 years after his death he still holds 15 first grade records, as follows:

- Greatest number of career runs: 17,200
- Greatest number of career centuries: 50
- Greatest number of runs in a season: 1,536 from 16 matches, 1929-30
- Greatest number of double centuries in a season: 3, 1929-30
- Highest partnership for any wicket: 353 for 4th wicket with Laurie Bate v Cambewarra, 1929-30
- Only player to score a century and take 10 wickets in a grand final: v Burrier, 1924-25
- Greatest number of career wickets: 1,192 accounted for
- Greatest number of wickets in a season: 102, 1929-30
- Greatest number of matches with 10+ wickets: 25
- Greatest number of innings with 5+ wickets: 66 (not including previous stat)

Grand finals -

- Highest score: 188 v Burrier, 1924-25
- Greatest aggregate: 990 runs at average of 55.00
- Greatest number of centuries: 3 - 1921-22, 1924-25 and 1925-26

Semi-finals

- Highest score: 241 not out v Cambewarra, 1929-30
- Greatest aggregate: 868 runs

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Bruce William Fagan

Shoalhaven Sporting Hero



After 47 years of coaching Judo, Bruce William Fagan has trained 81 Black Belt students and a remarkable 12 Olympians. An Australian National Level III Coach for 13 years, he has coached his students to an astounding 209 Australian Titles.

Further to this Bruce's students have represented Australia 212 times at international tournaments to 70 wins and 127 additional places. His own children Darren, Danny and Shayne, are all national and international champions several times over.

A disarmingly gentle and humble man, Bruce has never taken earnings for his coaching services. His winning formula revolves around treating everyone the same, and he holds countless memories of students for whom this maxim and the challenging sport of Judo has transformed life.

Bruce started the Bushido Judo Club in Shoalhaven Heads in 1996. He has donated his time to organising the Shoalhaven Open, South Coast Open and Country Judo Championships, as well as serving as Vice/President for the NSW Board of Judo Management and Judo Federation of Australia, and as State and National Referee 1968-1992. He has organised 12 international club tours to provide students with international experience.

Achievements

- Commonwealth Games Judo Coach 1990
- Australian Judo Coach 1980-1993
- Judo Coach 1967-current
- Olympic Games Coach 1992
- NSW Judo Coach 1975-1992
- Olympic Torch Bearer, Shoalhaven 2000

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Paua to Burn

Shoalhaven Sporting Animal



*O*wned by breeder and trainer Steven White, Paua To Burn (Tina) was born at Nowra Hill in 2002 after being bred from Awesome Assassin and Alice Dooley.

Paua To Burn showed potential in early trials prior to racing, entering Australia's richest maiden event in her first start. Winning her heat and semi-final she took a fall in the final and returned empty-handed. Despite the mixed start, Paua to Burn quickly bounced back to win her next three starts, including a record run at her local Pinebowl track.

The dog then went on to win four Group One races and produced the 'race of the century' to win the Group One 2005 Golden Easter Egg Final. After being strongly challenged and clearly headed by another Group-winning Shoalhaven dog Eiffella, Paua to Burn showed true grit to rail up again and forge clear to win by 3/4 of a length in 29.98 seconds, the 2nd fastest recorded final time in history.

Tina made only limited appearances at her home track, but when she did her gentle nature made her a favourite with the crowd and especially all the kids, who lined the fence for a pat.

Achievements

AGRA Hall of Fame 2007

AGRA Group Race Achievements:

- Group 1 Sapphire Crown - Sandown, VIC 2004
- Group 1 Laurels Classic - Sandown, VIC 2004
- Group 1 Golden Easter Egg - Wentworth Park, NSW 2005
- Group 1 Sapphire Crown - Sandown, VIC 2005
- Group 3 The Temlee - The Meadows, VIC 2005

Track records:

- Wentworth Park, NSW 520 metres - 29.51 seconds
- The Meadows, VIC 600 metres - 34.09 seconds
- Bulli NSW 472 metres - 26.02 seconds
- Nowra NSW 520 metres - 29.98 seconds
- Sandown VIC 515 metres - 29.41 seconds

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