



*Shoalhaven*

# Hall of Sporting Fame

August 2008



# Contents

Introduction.....	1
Shoalhaven Elite Athlete Category .....	2
Dale Bryce - Taekwondo .....	3
Paul Greene - Track & Field .....	4
Tony Pitt-Lancaster - Archery .....	5
Bob King - Lawn Bowls .....	6
Merv Bennett - Equestrian.....	7
Ian Davis - Cricket .....	8
James Stanbury - Rowing .....	9
Karen Murphy - Lawn Bowls .....	10
Joe Jorgenson - Rugby League .....	11
Tony Branson - Rugby League .....	12
Andrew Walker - Rugby League & Rugby Union .....	13
Bruce McGuire - Rugby League.....	14
Stuart Lee - Taekwondo.....	15
Karen Higgison (nee Phillips) - Swimming.....	16
Shoalhaven Sporting Hero Category.....	17
Kevin Robinson - Equestrian .....	18
Robert Webster - Cricket .....	19
Doug Holland - Cycling .....	20
Foster Emery, OAM - Cricket & Rugby Union.....	21
Etienne de Mestre - Horse Trainer.....	22
Bernie Regan - Various Sports .....	23
Arthur 'Artie' Smith - Cricket & Rugby League.....	24
Shoalhaven Sporting Animal Category .....	25
Mark Radium - Show Jumper .....	26
Regal Reign - Olympic Equestrian .....	27
Archer - Melbourne Cup Winner .....	28

## *Introduction*

In 2000, Shoalhaven City Council established the Shoalhaven Sports Board with the mission to 'work towards the development and advancement of sport in the City of Shoalhaven for the benefit of community well being, health and fitness.'

Recognising the outstanding achievements of Shoalhaven based elite athletes, sporting heroes and sporting animals, the Shoalhaven Sports Board developed the Shoalhaven Hall of Sporting Fame with the following three categories:

- Shoalhaven Elite Athlete Category
- Shoalhaven Sporting Hero Category
- Shoalhaven Sporting Animal Category

The following citations are a tribute to those sporting men, women and animals inducted into the Shoalhaven Hall of Sporting Fame.

## *Shoalhaven Elite Athlete Category*

To be eligible for selection into the Shoalhaven Hall of Sporting Fame as a 'Shoalhaven Elite Athlete', the following selection criteria must be met:

- a) The nominated athlete must have represented Australia at an international or national elite junior or senior level.
- b) Selection of an athlete does not include persons who have represented their sport through school sports activities.
- c) The selected athlete shall have undergone their formative training in the Shoalhaven, or be recognised as a medium/long term Shoalhaven Local Government Area resident.

## Dale Bryce - Taekwondo



Dale Bryce has competed in the demanding sport of taekwondo for more than 20 years, and having lived all of his life in the Nowra district, he is a genuine local product.

Dale is a 5th Dan Black Belt in the sport and has represented Australia on many occasions in international competitions, including the World Championships, Commonwealth, Korean and Asian Championships.

From 2002 to 2008 Dale was the undefeated Australian champion, and during that period he also won 16 international medals as a member of the Australian team.

His successes include

- Bronze medal at the World Championships in Korea in 2005
- Gold, silver, and bronze medals in different disciplines at the Commonwealth Championships held in Brisbane in 2006.
- Korean Open -
  - 2001 Team Technical (as individual) Gold medal,
  - 2002 Gold individual Technical (patterns), & Silver Team Technical (patterns),
  - 2003 Gold Power breaking, Silver individual Technical (pattern), Bronze Team Technical (patterns)
  - 2005 2 Gold, 2 Silver & 1 Bronze in different disciplines
- Asian Championships Korea 2004 4th position

At 28 years of age Dale owns & runs his own successful taekwondo school coaching many students to state, national and international gold medal level.

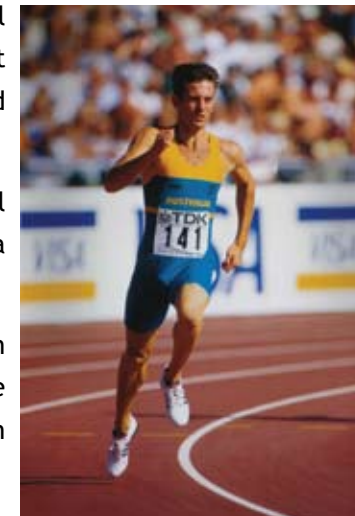
Nominated by his family - Inducted 2008

## Paul Greene - Track & Field

Paul Greene competed successfully at every level of track and field from 1986, when he won his first Australian Championship, until 1994. Over that period he won schools, state and national titles each year.

The highlight of his career came in 1996 when Paul represented Australia at the Olympic Games in Atlanta (USA).

Between 1986 and 1991 the Falls Creek athlete won 100m, 200m and 400m championships, firstly in the Australian Schools Games, then the NSW and Australian titles.



At Atlanta he was a member of the 4 x 400m relay team that reached the semi-finals, and was a quarter-finalist in the 400m individual event.

Paul represented Australia in the Commonwealth Games on two occasions, in New Zealand in 1990 when he reached the final of the 200m; and Canada in 1994 when he finished 4th in the 400m final and was a member of the 4 x 400m relay.

He qualified for the quarter finals of the 400m in the 1991 World Championships in Japan, and the 1995 World Championships in Sweden.

Paul was the Australian open 400m champion in 1991, and 1995.

He also represented Australia in the 400m at several other international events, the World Indoor Championships 1991, World Student Games 1993

Nominated by Nowra Athletics Club- Inducted 2008

## *Tony Pitt- Lancaster - Archery*



Tony Pitt-Lancaster has been involved in the sport of archery for more than 25 years, and in that time he has won numerous awards and established records in national and international competitions. His two Australian records - in the 24 FITA (International Archery Federation) Field and 48 FITA Field - set in 1997 and 1998 still stand a decade later.

Tony, who currently resides at Callala Bay, has been involved with coaching and training Australian archers from 1981 to present.

He competed at the World Field Archery Championships on seven occasions between 1982 and 1996, gaining a silver medal in Norway in 1990 and a gold medal in the

teams event in the Netherlands in 1992.

Tony has been successful in the Australian National Championships, winning gold medals on 12 occasions.

In the World Masters 50-59 age group Tony holds three world records, for Target, Field Round IFAA, and for Hunter Round IFAA targets.

Tony has won gold medals in the Target Round and Field Round divisions in the 50-59 age group of the Australian Masters competition, as well as gold and silver medals in the National Veterans competition.

Tony's other records include the 24 Target measured FITA field, 28 Target round, and 56 target combined rounds.

Nominated by Shoalhaven City- Archers Inducted 2008

## *Bob King- Lawn Bowls*

Bob King, who was born in the Tweed area, has resided in the Shoalhaven area since 1979. Bob began bowling at the age of 21 years, and has been involved with lawn bowls since 1955.

In 1974 he represented Australia at the Commonwealth Games which were held in Christchurch (New Zealand), and returned with a silver medal from the fours event.

Bob was successful in winning two national titles - the Australian pairs in 1985 and the Australian singles in 1998.

During his long career Bob has won the following titles:

- NSW singles 1979, 1980, 1984, 1993, 1998;
- NSW pairs 1979, 1980;
- State champion of club champions singles 1984 & 1994;
- State open pairs 1978.

Bob has had great success at other high profile international events and activities including:

- Australia v New Zealand 1981, (singles)
- Newcastle International pairs 1981;
- Appearances in "Jack High" television program;
- 30 Prestige Invitational singles;
- 6 Prestige Invitational pairs;
- City Masters singles seven times.

Bob King's dominance through the seventies, eighties and nineties made him synonymous with the sport, and in 2007 he was one of the four inaugural inductees into the Royal NSW Bowling Association Hall of Fame.

Nominated By the Bomaderry Bowling Club- Inducted 2008



## *Merv Bennett - Equestrian*



Born at Brundee, the eldest son of Os & Ivy Bennett, Merv Bennett developed a love of horseriding at an early age. He began his life long association with competition horses at the age of 10 when he joined the local pony club.

In 1963 he was part of the NSW team that won the Inter Pacific Pony Club Championships in Victoria. This representation was to set him on his future Equestrian path. Later that year he competed for the first time at the Sydney Easter Show Three Day Event. In 1967 he achieved first and second prize in the

same event. He was selected as Captain of the first Trans Tasman Three Day Event Team to travel to New Zealand in 1974.

He was a member of the Bronze Medal winning team at the Montreal Olympic Games in 1976 and again in 1980 at the Fountainebleau Games. He was part of the Australian team that came fifth at the Los Angeles Olympic Games in 1984.

He was appointed an Ambassador of Goodwill by Shoalhaven City Council and was named Shoalhaven Sports Star of the Year on two separate occasions.

Merv retired from International competition in 1987 and was appointed an Olympic Selector, a position he held until after the Barcelona Olympics in 1992.

In 1997 Merv was made a life member of the Equestrian Federation of NSW and of the NSW Horse Trials Council. In 1998 he was awarded the Australian Sports Medal in recognition of his achievements and services to his sport and to coaching and assisting others.

## *Ian Davis - Cricket*

Ian Davis grew up in Nowra and is the only person from the district to go on to represent Australia in Test cricket. From a young age he dominated Shoalhaven junior cricket in the 1960's, playing in four premiership sides (under 14 and under 15) and established batting records not equalled in the Shoalhaven.

At 12, Ian won the local Association's third grade batting average, and at 13 he was a prominent member of the Nowra first grade premiership team. He represented NSW in the national under 14 titles at Perth, after which he was named captain of the Australian team. At

16 he toured the West Indies with the Australian Schoolboys (under 19's) and scored a century in the Schoolboy Test played in Barbados.

In the Sydney grade competition 1969-70, Ian was scouted by the NSW selectors and made his Sheffield Shield debut in 1973-74. At the age of 20, Ian was chosen to play for Australia in a Test match against New Zealand at the Melbourne Cricket Ground. From this point, Ian went on to make 15 Test appearances, scoring 692 runs at an average of 26.61, and a top score of 105 when he opened the batting against Pakistan in the Adelaide Test of 1976-77.





## James Stanbury - Rowing



James Stanbury grew up in Terara and Saltwater Creek, dominating local and regional single scull rowing in the 1880's.

His first winning race was in 1885 during the Nowra Regatta.

In 1887 he relocated to Sydney and came to international prominence in 1890 when, on the Parramatta River Championship Course, he rowed against William O'Connor of Toronto,

Canada for £500 a side, and won easily by four lengths.

James went on to win the World Single Sculling Title against fellow NSW competitor John McLean in 1891. He held the world title between 1891 and 1896 and again in 1905-06.

In 1905 he competed on the Thames, England and later in the United States, a significant feat when considering the modes of transport in those days.

James Stanbury died on 11th December 1945 and is buried in the Presbyterian Section of the Field of Mars Cemetery in Sydney.

### Sporting Achievements

- South Coast Champion 1885-1887 - Shoalhaven River
- Centennial Wager Race 1888 - Shoalhaven River
- World Sculling Champion 1891-1896 - 1905-1906

## Karen Murphy - Lawn Bowls

A resident of Shoalhaven Heads, Karen commenced bowling in 1986 at the age of 11 years at the local Shoalhaven Heads Bowling Club, progressing to become a National and International Champion.

Whilst Karen still competes in bowls, her record of wins to date is impressive. Her record includes various state and national titles, competing in singles, pairs and fours, and has played over 56 games for NSW and 275 games for Australia. Internationally, Karen also won various titles with her most memorable being Silver Medals at the 1998 Kuala Lumpur Commonwealth Games (fours) and 2002 Manchester Commonwealth Games (singles).



### Sporting Achievements

- Winner State Master Titles 1995, 2000, 2001
- Australian Pairs Champion 1996-1997
- Gold Medal Pacific Championships Fours 1997
- Bronze Medal Pacific Championships Pairs 1997
- Winner National AWBC Pairs 1996, 1997
- Winner National Carnival Fours 1997
- Winner World Singles Under 25yrs 1999
- Silver World Bowls Pairs 2000
- Silver Medal National AWBC Singles 2001
- Winner NSW State Singles 2001
- Winner NSW State Champion 2001
- Silver Medallist Commonwealth Games Fours 1998
- Silver Medallist Commonwealth Games Singles 2002
- Winner Australian Champion of Champions Fours 2004
- Bronze World Bowls Pairs 2004

## Joe Jorgenson - Rugby League



Born at Berry in 1922 Joe Jorgenson was Australia's first Rugby League Test captain after the war. He also had the distinction of introducing sand to goal kicking. Before Joe came along, goal kickers used to hack out a divot of turf with their boot. He played his early football with the Berry Magpies. He was a member of the 1941 Port Kembla team and also played for NSW that year. In 1944 Joe went to Balmain, scoring over 100 points and winning the premiership. Scoring 100 points again in 1945 for Balmain, he was 1946 Australian Test captain. He then captain-coached Junee in 1947, however, Junee failed to make the semis and Joe then went back to Balmain's reserve

grade for the rest of the season. He was called to play in the Grand Final team and scored all their points in the 13 - 9 Premiership win over Canterbury in his only first-grade game of the season.

Joe scored 734 points for the Tigers through 22 tries and 334 goals in only 98 games. In 9 games for NSW he scored a hefty 70 points from 4 tries and 31 goals. He saw out his career with a season at Parramatta in 1954. Joe Jorgenson died in 1993.

### Sporting Achievements

- Berry Magpies 1937 -1940
- Group 7 Representative 1937
- Port Kembla 1941
- NSW - 9 games in total 1941
- Balmain Tigers 1944, 1946
- Australian Test Captain - Kangaroos 1946
- Balmain Grand Final team 1947
- Parramatta Eels 1954

## Tony Branson - Rugby League

Tony Branson was born in Nowra in 1946 and commenced his Rugby League career as five-eighth with the Nowra Warriors.

In 1967 he was chosen to represent NSW Country before going on to play for Australia in the 1967-68 Kangaroo tour.

As a tough robust pivot, Tony played in five Tests whilst on tour and upon returning to Australia was snapped up by St. George.

During his time at St. George, Tony was also a member of Australia's 1968 World Cup squad and in 1971 was selected to tour New Zealand.



### Sporting Achievements

- NSW Country 1967
- Represented Australia 1967/68 Kangaroo Tour
- Represented Australia 1968 World Cup Squad
- St. George 1968-1973 (playing 96 games)



## Andrew Walker - Rugby League & Rugby Union



Andrew Walker is one of the most gifted players in both Rugby League and Rugby Union. Andrew 'Walks' Walker was born in Bomaderry (part of the Wiradjuri nation) and played league for Bomaderry Juniors.

Andrew began his high profile football career in 1989 at age 15, and was selected in 1990 to represent the Australian Rugby Union Under 17's. He was then selected in the NSW Country Senior Team to play the USA in Grenfell, thus becoming at age 16, the youngest player in NSW and possibly Australia to play in a Senior Rugby International.

In 1990 he was also selected in the Illawarra District Rugby Union Senior Squad that won the coveted 'Calwell Cup'.

Andrew switched to Rugby League after landing a contract with St George Dragons 1991-94 and signed with Sydney City Roosters 1995-99 and represented Australia in the 1996 League Test against Papua New Guinea.

Andrew then returned to Rugby Union in 2000 for the ACT Brumbies and became the Super 12's leading try scorer, earning him a spot in the Australian Wallabies Test team against the New Zealand All Blacks. In 2003 he returned to League, signing with the Manly Sea Eagles.

### Sporting Achievements

#### Rugby Union

- Australian Under 17's
- NSW Under 21's
- Illawarra 1st XV 1990
- NSW Country 1st XV 1990
- Australian Under 17's 1st XV 1990
- Australian Under 21's 1991
- Randwick 1st & 2nd XV 1991
- NSW Under 21's 1991
- ACT Brumbies 2000
- Australian Wallabies 2000

#### Rugby League

- St. George Dragons 1992 - 94
- Sydney City Roosters 1995-99
- Australian Kangaroos 1996
- Manly Sea Eagles 2003

## Bruce McGuire - Rugby League

Bruce McGuire was born in Nowra in 1962 and commenced his Rugby League career playing for Nowra Warriors. At age 19 he played as a forward for the 1981 Country First's Team before giving the game away for two years while he travelled around Australia on a working holiday.

In 1983 Bruce returned to Rugby League and represented Victoria and South Australia. In 1984 he played for Darwin against Great Britain, prior to returning to Nowra in 1985. The following year Bruce signed up with Balmain where he developed into a highly consistent forward and played for the City Team in 1988 and both Balmain Grand Final teams in 1988-89.

In 1989 Bruce made his State of Origin debut for NSW and later that year toured New Zealand with the Australian side where he played two tests. The following year he shifted to Canterbury for two seasons before seeing out his career playing in England where he played for Warrington against the 1994 Kangaroos.



### Sporting Achievements

- NSW Country Firsts 1981
- Balmain Tigers (71 games) 1986-1990
- NSW State of Origin (5 games) 1989-1990
- Australian Test against New Zealand 1989 & 1991
- Canterbury Bankstown (35 games) 1991-1992

## Stuart Lee - Taekwondo



Stuart Lee was born in Nowra in 1961 and began Taekwondo training at the age of 12 years. From basic skill training, which he practised at Nowra High School Gym, he progressed rapidly to become a State, National and International Competitor.

Stuart's Taekwondo achievements include 12 State Champion Titles, 8 National Champion Titles and captain of the National Team at the World and Asian Championships.

Retiring from competition in 1994, Stuart moved into a coaching / administration role with Taekwondo Australia

and was a Selector for the 2000 Sydney Olympics and Chairman of Selectors for the 2004 Athens Olympics. The highlight for Stuart was being selected by the Australian Olympic Committee as the Section Manager for Taekwondo in the 2004 Athens Olympics.

### Sporting Achievements

- |                                    |           |
|------------------------------------|-----------|
| • State Champion - 12 Times        | 1976-1994 |
| • National Champion - 8 Times      | 1980-1993 |
| • National Team Champion - 6 Times | 1985-1994 |

### Awards / Sporting Administration

- |  |           |
|--|-----------|
| • Bomaderry RSL, Sports Star of the Year         | 1987      |
| • Australian Coach (5 times)                     | 1996-2005 |
| • Head of Australian Team (7 times)              | 1996-2005 |
| • Taekwondo Australia, Administrator of the Year | 1999      |
| • Australian Sports Medal                        | 2000      |
| • Tuggeranong ACT, Coach of the Year             | 2001      |
| • Canberra ACT, Nominated Coach of the Year      | 2002      |

## Karen Higginson (nee Phillips) - Swimming

Born in Nowra in 1966 Karen's competitive career in swimming commenced when she set new records in 1982 at the Gosford Summer NSW Country Swimming Championships and Canberra Winter Swimming Championships. In 1983, she participated in 12 events at the Leeton Summer Country Swimming Championships and won six gold, two silver and three bronze medals. Later that year she joined the Australian Institute of Sport and captained the Australian Junior Speedo Development Team in Japan where she participated in four events and won two gold and two silver medals.



In 1984 Karen won nine gold medals at the NSW State Age and Open Swimming Championships setting four new state records. At Brisbane National Opens she won a silver medal in the 200m Butterfly and qualified for the Los Angeles Olympic Games. At the Los Angeles Olympic Games she won a silver medal and set a new Commonwealth and National Record for her time in the 200m Butterfly.

In 1986 Karen swam at the Edinburgh Commonwealth Games and again won a silver medal in the 200m Butterfly and a bronze medal in the 400m Medley Relay.

### Sporting Achievements

- |   |      |
|---|------|
| • (6) gold - Leeton Summer Country Championships              | 1983 |
| • (2) silver - Leeton Summer Country Championships            | 1983 |
| • (3) bronze medals - Leeton Summer Country Championships     | 1983 |
| • (9) gold medals at the NSW State Age and Open Championships | 1984 |
| • Silver Medal Olympic Games Los Angeles                      | 1984 |
| • Silver Medal Commonwealth Games Edinburgh                   | 1986 |

### Awards

- |                                       |      |
|---------------------------------------|------|
| • Swimmer of the Year Award in Sydney | 1984 |
|---------------------------------------|------|

## *Shoalhaven Sporting Hero Category*

To be eligible for selection into the Shoalhaven Hall of Sporting Fame as a 'Shoalhaven Sporting Hero', the following selection criteria must be met:

- a) Long and meritorious service to their sport, and/or
- b) Significant achievement in their sport, and/or
- c) Represented their sport as a coach, trainer, umpire/referee, administrator or other support role to an Australian junior or open side, and/or
- d) Be recognised as an integral part of the development of the sport within the Shoalhaven.
- e) The nominee shall be recognised as a medium/long term Shoalhaven Local Government Area resident.

## *Kevin Robinson – Equestrian*

Born in 1930 at Randwick, Kevin Robinson resided in the Shoalhaven from 1945 until his passing in 2005. He was involved in both harness and thoroughbred racing from 1950.

One of Berry's best known personalities, he was a local institution, well known for his stables at the Berry Showground, and for his regular training of horses at Seven Mile Beach.



Kevin was acknowledged and respected as one of New South Wales and Australia's best horseman. He was one of a select few to achieve group one success in both codes of racing. Kevin's career started in Harness racing, with the high light being his victory in the Inter dominion for pacers in 1968 with First Lee, he was the first Australian horse to do so.

In 1976 he won the NSW Harness Racing Trainer/Driver premiership, and going on to win most of Australia's premier races. Kevin was one of five trainer/drivers in harness racing to be inducted into the NSW Legends Hall of Fame.

He also represented Australia in an International Series in America in 1968 with First Lee.

Kevin added thoroughbreds to his racing team in 1968, and switching full time in the 1990's Kevin enjoyed success in many group one races; but possibly his finest day came during the 1996 Easter carnival when he won successive races, the AJC Oaks with Kenbelle, and the Frank Packer Plate with Mr Piper.

Nominated by Shoalhaven City Turf Club - Inducted 2008

## Robert Webster - Cricket



In the summer of 2007-08, Bob Webster completed 50 years of continuous involvement with Shoalhaven cricket.

His career began with Bomaderry in the 1958-59 season in the first junior [under 15] team. As a right-arm, medium-fast bowler, Bob became a prolific wicket-taker during a long career in the Shoalhaven District Cricket Association senior competitions.

Playing in first grade, Bob took 800 wickets, a figure unequalled by a Shoalhaven bowler since World War II. Boosting this aggregate, he took five or more wickets on 34 occasions, and twice took 11 wickets in a match.

Bob's achievements on the field have been matched by

his workload as an administrator in the sport. He has held numerous positions at both a club and association level, including president of Bomaderry from 1977 to 1986, while his other roles have included junior coach and wicket curator.

In the 1972-73 season Bob was appointed secretary of the association's junior committee, and he has held this position without a break. He has seen the growth of the junior competition from 15 teams in three age groups to 45 teams in seven age groups.

In 1983 Bob was honoured with life membership of the Shoalhaven District Cricket Association. He was also awarded the Australian Sports Medal in 2000.

Nominated by Shoalhaven District Cricket Association- Inducted 2008

## Doug Holland - Cycling

Doug was born in Casino in 1945 and started competition cycling at the age of 15 in Townsville. He moved to the Shoalhaven in 1971 and soon after, joined the Nowra Cycle Club. He became secretary of the Club in 1973.



### Sporting Achievements

- |   |      |
|---|------|
| • 3rd Queensland Junior Road Championship         | 1963 |
| • 3rd Queensland Senior Road Championship         | 1965 |
| • 2nd NSW Country Road Championship               | 1968 |
| • 2nd Team Pursuit Championship                   | 1969 |
| • 1st NSW Country Road Championship               | 1970 |
| • Nine Day Sun Tour Best Sportsman Award          | 1970 |
| • 1st NSW Masters Individual Pursuit Championship | 1981 |
| • 1st NSW Masters 5km Scratch Championship        | 1981 |
| • 1st NSW Masters Road Championship               | 1981 |
| • 2nd NSW Masters Road Championship               | 1982 |
| • 1st NSW Masters Individual Pursuit Championship | 1983 |

### Sporting Administration

- |   |                            |
|---|----------------------------|
| • Secretary Nowra Cycle Club  | 1973 -2002, 2004, 2005     |
| • Chief Commissaire Nowra Cycle Club  | 1988 - 2005                |
| • State Commissaire, Cycling NSW  | 1988 - 2005                |
| • State Handicapper, Cycling NSW  | 1988 - 2002                |
| • State Selector, Cycling NSW   | 1991 - 2000                |
| • State Team Manager for Cycling NSW for the Australian Track Cycling Championships | 1990 & 1991                |
| • State Team Manager for Cycling NSW for the Australian Road Cycling Championships  | 1989 - 91, 1993 - 94, 1996 |
| • Life Member Nowra Velo Club and Cycling NSW                                       |                            |



## *Foster Emery, OAM - Cricket & Rugby Union*



Born in Nowra in 1922, Foster contributed a lifetime commitment to Shoalhaven cricket and rugby.

Foster's continuous involvement in the Shoalhaven District Cricket Association extended for more than 50 years, as a regional and district player, sport's administrator, and later as an umpire. His on field performance includes seven Shoalhaven first grade Premierships from fifteen Grand Final appearances. He was president of the Shoalhaven District Association for a record 16 seasons, and was involved in the Illawarra Cricket Council and regional restructure of cricket in 1975-76.

He became a life member of a number of Cricket bodies, namely Illawarra Cricket Council, Bomaderry Cricket Club, Shoalhaven District Cricket Association, and South Coast and Highlands Cricket Council. In 1989 he received a rare NSW Cricket Association plaque and on Australia Day in 1992 he was awarded the Medal (OAM) of the Order of Australia.

Outside of cricket, Foster maintained a strong interest and commitment to the development of Shoalhaven Rugby. Serving as president and senior vice president of the Shoalhaven Rugby Football Club for more than 10 years, he was involved in managing the club's first New Zealand tour in 1975, and developing the club's facilities at Rugby Park, South Nowra. In 1982, when Rugby Park was officially opened, Foster was made a life member of the Shoalhaven Rugby Football Club.

## *Etienne de Mestre - Horse Trainer*

Etienne Livingstone de Mestre (1832-1916) was recognised as a master trainer in the 1850's and came to prominence after successfully racing the Braidwood bred colts Mariner and Sailor. An Australian by birth, with French ancestry on the paternal side, his career was a series of triumphs with a long succession of champion horses passing through his hands. Many of these he bred himself and many others such as Archer, Tim Whiffler, Yattendon and Chester, he trained. He occupied a leading place amongst the racing celebrities of Australia and was the first national sportsman to represent the Shoalhaven district.



As a school boy he loved thoroughbred horse racing and developed into an excellent amateur jockey and trainer. His association with George T Rowe of Liverpool, the owner of the celebrated Veno, and with Tom Roberts of Braidwood, owner of Archer, Tim Whiffler and many other champion horses, was at the forefront of a wonderful career of thirty years. Archer was the Alpha of his successes which contributed a very big page to the sporting history of Australia.

In recognition of his outstanding achievements, Etienne de Mestre was inducted into the Australian Racing Hall of Fame on 30th July 2002.

### *Sporting Achievements*

- The Melbourne Cup 1861 - 62, 1867, 1877 - 78
- The Inaugural Sydney Cup 1866, 1876
- The Randwick Plate 1867, 1869, 1873 - 74, 1876, 1878
- The V. R. C. Derby 1875, 1877, 1882
- The A. J. C. Derby 1864, 1876, 1878, 1882
- The A.J.C. St Ledger 1865, 1876 - 78, 1883
- The V.R.C. St Ledger 1883
- The V.R.C. Queen's Plate 1867
- The A.J.C. Queen's Plate 1862, 1868, 1870 - 71, 1874, 1876 - 77, 1879
- The Australian Plate 1859, 1861, 1883
- The Inaugural Craven Plate 1867

## Bernie Regan - Various Sports



Bernie Regan was a tireless worker for the sporting community making it his life's work. A Sports Store Proprietor, he was a generous benefactor to sporting Clubs and individuals, and popular Master of Ceremonies within the Shoalhaven sporting community.

Bernie Regan spent his life in the district and was involved in varying capacities with the Shoalhaven Greyhound Club, Shoalhaven Rifle Club, Shoalhaven Basketball Association and Shoalhaven Rugby League. He was also a sports commentator with Radio 2ST, League Sky TV, WIN 4 and the South Coast Register.

He introduced Touch Football to the Shoalhaven in 1976 and was foundation Secretary and Life Member of the Nowra/Shoalhaven Touch Association and Patron of the Shoalhaven Sporting Foundation which distributed funds to young sports people. In 1984 a trust fund was established to raise money for athletes from all sports to help in training, coaching and travel and was named the Bernie Regan Memorial Sporting Trust.

Following Bernie's untimely death in August 1984 there was a groundswell of opinion that his name should be perpetuated in an appropriate manner. To honour his work with the sporting community of Shoalhaven, the sporting complex at West Cambewarra was named the 'Bernie Regan Sporting Complex'.

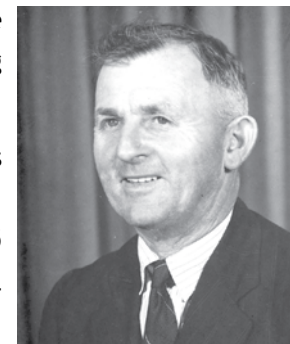
### Sporting Administration

- Secretary Nowra Warriors RLFC 1971-1972
- Sports Writer - South Coast Register 1972-1984
- Sports Director of Radio 2ST 1972-1984
- Foundation Member - The Shoalhaven Sports Foundation

## Arthur 'Artie' Smith - Cricket & Rugby League

Born 1895, Arthur "Artie" Smith spent all his adult life contributing to the development of Shoalhaven sporting organizations.

Artie played Cricket in the Shoalhaven district for 42 years from 1909, featuring in 9 first grade premierships teams, including 6 in 8 seasons for Pyree from 1918/19 to 1925 / 26. He was a representative wicketkeeper over several decades. He totalled 52 years as a Cricket administrator, including 31 years as Pyree Cricket Club secretary. From 1949 till he died in 1965, Artie concurrently held president and secretary positions at both Association and Council levels.



In 1913, Artie played Rugby League in the Nowra Warriors team that won the inaugural local competition. For the next 50 years he was a player, referee, manager, selector, delegate, president, club and League secretary within South Coast Group 7 Rugby League. He donated "The Artie Smith Cup" as the league's first grade premiership trophy in the mid-1950s.

In the 1920s and 1930s, Artie's secretaryship included Greenwell Point Race Club, Shoalhaven Rowing Club and Pyree Rovers Rugby League Club.

His life memberships include:

- Shoalhaven District Cricket Association 1949
- Illawarra Cricket Council 1959
- South Coast Group 7 Rugby League 1963
- South Coast Group 7 Junior Rugby League 1964

When Artie Smith was made "Citizen Of the Year" by Nowra Rotary Club in 1962, he had completed 150 years service as honorary secretary within the 20 different bodies he had represented around the district.



## *Shoalhaven Sporting Animal Category*

To be eligible for selection into the Shoalhaven Hall of Sporting Fame as a 'Shoalhaven Sporting Animal', the following selection criteria must be met:

- a) The nominated animal must have won an international or national animal sporting event/race.
- b) The nominated animal must have been reared and/or initially trained within the Shoalhaven.

## *Mark Radium - Show Jumper*

Mark Radium was foaled in 1932 at Taree out of a rogue thoroughbred magpie mare and sired by Master Radium. At the Sydney Show in 1937 he won three high jumps ridden by Les Blackwel. After this Show, he was sold to Fred Inglebert where he was ridden by the rider who coaxed the best out of him, Jack McGee. Mark Radium became part of Jack's team of show jumpers and competed in Pony and Open High Jumping contests from Brisbane, all over N.S.W., in Melbourne and Adelaide Shows and held the high jump record for most of these grounds with heights from 6ft 9ins to 7ft 8ins inclusive, even once jumping 7ft 1ins when recovering from pneumonia. From 1937 - 41 and 1947 - 55, Mark Radium won the Sydney Royal Easter Show's highlight events, the Mark Foy's Piazza High Jump 10 times and the Vice Regal High Jump 9 times.



The little pony loved the sound of applause and jumped in a very distinctive style. When the high jumps were on at the Royal Easter Show, and Jack and Mark Radium were contestants, 'side show' alley would even close down.

At age 23 years and with eyesight failing, Mark's last appearance was at the 1955 Royal Easter Show in Sydney where he uncharacteristically balked for the first time. Jack dropped a match box at the spot he was to start his leap, and to the roar of the crowd, jumped 6ft 9in which was enough to have him tie the event with his stablemate Victory. It was then announced that Jack was retiring Mark and this was to be his last jump. As Mark completed his lap of honor, the crowd became completely silent to show their respect for this great champion.

Mark Radium, Victory and Don were stabled at Berry during their non competitive times, where many years later, a park was named in Mark Radium's honor. The park was the work of the local Apex club and some years later it was handed over to the Shoalhaven City Council.

## Regal Reign – Olympic Equestrian



Regal Reign was born in 1969 and raised by Neil Lavis at Braidwood as a race horse. At the end of a short racing career he was purchased by Ian McDonald from Nowra. After several horse jumping lessons with Merv Bennett, where Ian would ride some 20kms from Huskisson to Worrigeer and back, Ian, overwhelmed by Regal Reign's endless energy, sold him to Merv.

Regal Reign, under the horsemanship of Merv Bennett, became one of Australia's top level equestrian horses for 10 years and completed 15 three day events - winning Melbourne twice prior to representing Australia at the 1976 Montreal Olympics, 1980 Fontainebleau alternative Olympics, 1982 Luhmuhlen World Championships and 1984 Los Angeles Olympics, all without jumping penalties on the cross country.

Upon completing the Montreal Olympics, Regal Reign was to be sold in Canada as the Australian Olympic Committee and the Bennetts' could not afford the very expensive airline charge. Learning of Regal Reign's fate, the local community raised the necessary funds to freight this Shoalhaven icon home and to allow participation in future Olympics.

Regal Reign returned to Australia to spend his final years on the Bennetts' Worrigeer property and, after illness in 1998, aged 29, was laid to rest at the junction of a road named after him – Reign Close.

### Sporting Achievements

- |  |      |
|--|------|
| • Bronze Medal Montreal Olympics Canada                  | 1976 |
| • Bronze Medal Fontainebleau Alternative Olympics France | 1980 |
| • World Championships Luhmuhlen Germany                  | 1982 |
| • 5th Olympics Los Angeles USA                           | 1984 |

## Archer – Melbourne Cup Winner

Archer was foaled in the Braidwood district in 1856, from the dam Maid of the Oaks, and sired by the imported horse William Tell. His owners were Mr Tom Roberts and his sister Elizabeth Hassall of Exeter Farm. Archer was leased by Etienne de Mestre, a close friend of Roberts, and trained at his Terrara Stables and before long brought nation-wide fame and recognition for de Mestre and the Shoalhaven and Braidwood districts.



The bay colt was three years old when he began his training at Terrara early in 1860 and he was considered unusually big for a three year old, standing 16.3 hands, with powerful hindquarters, a deep girth, fine sprung ribs and good head and neck. Little value was placed on the immature Archer after he performed badly in his first two races at Randwick, however, at the Spring Meeting of 1860 and at the Autumn meeting of 1861 he won every event in which he participated. He won seven races in succession.

The first Melbourne Cup was a fairly subdued affair, watched by a modest crowd of only 4000 where Archer spread-eagled the field and defeated the Victorian champion, Mormon, by six lengths. The year 1862 witnessed the return of the Terrara horses, more confident than ever that Archer would beat Mormon and everything Victoria could put against him. It was not idle boasting, as later events were to prove.

Archer's big body told on his legs and soreness often interfered with his training. In 1864 he was retired and returned to his owners at Braidwood for stud duties, where he remained until his death in December 1872.

*The Shoalhaven Sports Board  
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