



The Magpie



Fremantle Hockey Club Newsletter

9 August 2007

by Ian Sills

FORMER FREMANTLE PLAYERS DOMINATE THE 2006 FREMANTLE SPORTING WALL OF FAME AWARDS

Every two years, the Fremantle City Council inducts sporting greats into its 'Sporting Wall of Fame' and at the award ceremony held in November 2006, there were 22 finalists and out of seven inductees, four were former Fremantle Hockey Club players.



2006 Inductees: From Left to Right
Shirley Tonkin, June Harding and
Wendy Pritchard



Back Row Left to Right:
June Harding, Gwen Wren, Wendy Pritchard
Front Row Left to Right:
Shirley Tonkin & Laurie Packham

The Sporting Wall of Fame was started in 1998 with almost 60 Fremantle greats having been inducted since. Included in this are former Fremantle Hockey Club players, Laurie Packham (inducted 1998), Kay Gruer (nee Kolsky) and Lurline Connell (inducted 2002), Harold Smith and Gwen Wrenn (nee Hutchinson) (inducted 2004).

The criterion for nomination is to have achieved state, national or international representation and can include coaches, administrators, referees, judges and volunteers, as well as athletes. The individuals must have retired from the highest level of competition for at least five years.

Former Fremantle Hockey Club members, Ray Hancock, Shirley Tonkin (Haines), June Harding and Wendy Pritchard were 2006 Inductees, joined by George Stotter (cycling/trotting), Sir Ross Hutchinson (football), Maurice Andrews (pistol shooting).

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Fremantle Mayor, Peter Tagliaferri, has described the Sporting Wall of Fame as a way of bringing the achievements of sports men and women to the attention of the wider public. "The City of Fremantle has been fostering its sporting heroes for many years and is renowned for its proud sporting tradition and these latest inductees are worthy and welcome additions to the Fremantle Sporting Wall of Fame," he said.

The Fremantle Sporting Wall of Fame is located in the main arcade of the Town Hall Centre at 8 William Street, complemented by the Fremantle Sporting Walk of Fame, in Kings Square.

INDUCTEE PROFILES

RAYMOND ERNEST HANCOCK 1922 – 1999



He started his hockey-playing career with the Fremantle Hockey Club in 1939 as a junior, but was quickly promoted to A1 grade in 1940. He played 213 games for Fremantle – 177 in A1 grade.

It must be pointed out that these totals would inevitably have been larger had the senior hockey competition not been suspended between 1942 and 1944 due to World War II.

He was a member of the A1 premiership teams of 1950 and 1952, as captain of the 1952 team. The importance of these premiership wins cannot be over emphasised, as this achievement has not been equalled in subsequent years. Ray was selected to represent Western Australia in 1946, 1947 and 1952.

In 1948, he was selected to represent Australia, in a tour of New Zealand, making him the first Fremantle player to achieve international selection. Ray's hockey career may well have continued after 1952, but for the need to build a dwelling to suit his growing family. He moved out to Melville in 1953, where he joined the many owner builders starting up in that area where every spare weekend was spent.

SHIRLEY TONKIN (nee HAINES)

Member of the Fremantle Ladies Hockey Club - 1957 to 1965, and coach 1962 to 1965

Member of the Fremantle Rebels Softball Club - 1959 to 1983

Represented Western Australia in hockey 1962 to 1969, Vice Captain in 1965

Represented Australia in Women's Hockey -1963 to 1969

During this time period, Shirley coached Senior and Under 21 Western Australian Hockey teams and served on the Umpires Board for Western Australian Women's Hockey Association



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Awarded the Porter Lee Trophy in 1961, for services to the Fremantle Ladies Hockey Club

Member of the Surf Hockey Club - 1966 to 1983 as a player and club coach, was awarded Life Membership to the Club in 1980

Awarded the Australian Badge Hockey - 1976

Inducted to the Western Australian Hockey Champions Room - 1995

JUNE HARDING (nee HAINES/CAPE)



Member of the Fremantle Ladies Hockey Club – 1956 to 1971 and 1975 to 1986

Member of Fremantle Rebels Softball Club - 1957 to 1964 and 1976 to 1985

Member of Melville Little Athletics Club as an Official – 1969 to 1972 and 1975 to 1979

Competed as A Grade player in hockey – 1956 to 1971 and in softball, 1957 to 1964

Represented Western Australia from 1956 to 1960 and in 1963

Represented Australian in Women's Hockey from 1957 to 1960 and 1963.

June was regarded as one of the world's best Left Inners in her time.

Awarded the Porter Lee Trophy in 1972, for services to Fremantle Ladies Hockey Club

Awarded Life membership to the Fremantle Ladies Hockey Club in 1973

Inducted to the Western Australian Hockey Champions Room - 1995

Awarded the Australian Sports Medal - 2000

WENDY PRITCHARD (nee BUTCHER)

Originally from Busselton, representing her home town at Country Week tournaments in 1965 and 1966

Joined the Fremantle Ladies Hockey Club - 1968 to 1974

Represented Western Australia from 1965 to 1974 and 1978 to 1980, also was State Captain in 1980

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Represented Australia in Women's Hockey from 1965 to 1974 and 1979

Manager for the Australian Women's Hockey team (Hockeyroos) from 1994 to 2000 (including the Atlanta and Sydney Olympic Games, Kuala Lumpur Commonwealth Games, 2 World Cups, 4 Champions Trophy, 29 international tournaments and 9 national camps)

Awarded Busselton Sportsperson of the Year -1965

Awarded the Porter Lee Trophy in 1973 for services to Fremantle Ladies Hockey Club

Awarded Geraldton Sportsman of the Year - 1979

Inducted to the Western Australian Hockey Champions Room – 1991

Inducted into the Western Australia Institute of Sport Hall of Champions



Fremantle Hockey Club Facts

- Laurie Packham and Gwen Wren were the only Fremantle player to captain an Australian side
- Gwen Wren coached Fremantle Olympic runner, Dixie Willis



2004 Inductee, Gwen Wren with 1998 Inductee, Laurie Packham and former Olympic runner Dixie Willis

Special thanks to Andrew Robertson for forwarding relevant information for complying in this special edition - Ed