

NENA VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR AWARD 2013

Compiled and written by Bernie Altmann

NAME OF VOLUNTEER: Carley Darling

CLUB: Blyth/Snowtown Netball Club

POSITIONS HELD:

NENA Clinics Co-ordinator (1 Yr), NENA Recorder (1 Yr),

Blyth/Snowtown NC President (3 yrs), Blyth/Snowtown NC Vice President (1 Yr), Blyth/Snowtown NC Committee member (11 Yrs), Coach (13 yrs), Cat Chat co-ordinator (local budget) (2yrs), BSNC Reporter (2 yrs)

NENA Country Champs Masters player (5 Yrs)

Snowtown Netball Club Treasurer (13yrs)

REASONS FOR NOMINATION IN DETAIL

The Blyth Snowtown Netball Club would like to nominate Carley Darling for this year's NENA Volunteer of the Year award.

Carley has a long history with the Snowtown and Blyth Snowtown Netball Clubs, as she was playing for Snowtown before our record keeping began in 1979. Carly was an A grade defender for a lot of her career, and played a total of 415 senior games for Snowtown and Blyth Snowtown between 1979 and 2010. She also had seasons with Hummocks and South Clare, and played in the old 'Broughton Netball Association' before 1979, which included a C grade Premiership in 1974, so her games tally would actually be a lot higher.

Her playing career had many highlights, including premierships in B1 in '94, A2 in '96, and again in 2007. Her individual Blyth Snowtown awards included A2 Runner Up Best & Fairest in '96, A2 Best and Fairest in '97 and '07, and B1 Runner Up Best and Fairest in her last year of playing, aged 50!

Carley was a dedicated coach for Blyth Snowtown, which takes a lot of dedication and time at trainings and on Saturdays. She only once coached the team she played in, which makes for long day out - playing, coaching and raising 3 children, who were also talented football and netball players. She coached B2 in '93, C1 in '94, J4 in '96, B1 in '97 and '98, B2 in '99, U15 in 2000, A2 in '01, B2 in '02, '03 and '04, C1 in '05 and B1 in 2010. She led her teams to Premiership victories in 1993, 1994, 2002, 2003 and 2007.

In 2007 she actually played in and coached the A2 premiership team, and followed it up with Club Best & Fairest - at age 47!

Carley's dedication to the club did not end on the court. She was a Blyth Snowtown Committee member in '96, '97, 2000, '01, '02, '03, '04, '05, '06, '07 and 2010. She was 'Cat Chat' co-ordinator in '99 and 2000, club reporter in '05 and 2010, Vice President in '02, and President in '03, '04 and '05. She has also been treasurer of the Snowtown Netball Club for the past 8 years. In all her roles, Carley gave 100% effort, always volunteering to help out and taking on more than her fair share of the work.

Carley received Blyth Snowtown Netball Club Volunteer of the Year in 2005 and was awarded Life Membership in 2008.

Carley was NENA Clinics Co-ordinator in '06 and NENA Recorder in 2007, and took pride in doing a thorough, precise and devoted job.

She played Country Championships for NENA in the Masters team in 2000, 2001, 2002, 2005 and 2006, and was part of the winning Masters team in 2002.

Carley has worked tirelessly behind the scenes for many years. She does the little jobs like unlocking and locking the netball clubrooms, fixes the netball rings and nets, orders new goal post protectors and our wonderful team benches, and only recently applied for a grant to resurface the Snowtown courts. She has been President of the Snowtown Courts and Facilities Committee for many years, organised new carpet when it was needed, shelving, picture rails and having the clubrooms painted. She is a great supporter of our club, happy to read out the presentation awards, organise food for the wind-up, and individual club awards. The list of her work for the club could go on and on, but most things go unnoticed, and she never boasts or asks for praise.

Carley has been an outstanding member of our club and NENA for over 3 decades, on the court, coaching from the side lines, at committee level and behind the scenes. She would be a worthy winner of this award.