



AUCKLAND FOOTBALL FEDERATION

LONG SERVICE MEDALS

2008-2014

## INTRODUCTION

Dear friends,

The Auckland Football Federation Long Service Medal Awards recognise outstanding contributions made by members of our football community across many long years of service in the sport.

Many great contributors have impacted the game of football in Auckland and it is only right and proper that we continue to build on the legacy framework established.

Contained within the pages of this document are pen portraits of previous recipients of the Auckland Football Federation Long Service Award for you to peruse at your leisure.

It is appropriate to recall these recipients for their great commitment and support to their club and federation.

Our gratitude also goes to the volunteers who generously offered their services to make our sport a success - they are a key element of the development and promotion of our wonderful game.

Bill MacGowan  
Auckland Football Federation CEO

AFF LONG SERVICE MEDALS 2008



Kiri Morris who joined the referee ranks in 1981, has served as president, vice president and secretary of the Auckland football referee group and though no longer an active whistler, devotes his time and skill to coaching the younger referees each weekend.



Loryn Tompsett became a referee in 1991 and although now coaching rather than taking the middle, spent 10 years in another unseen role, that of appointing officials to youth and senior matches. Tompsett also served on the referees centenary sub committee through to the celebration in 1998 and was chairperson of the Auckland Football Referees group in 2005.



Trevor Bradford picked up a whistle in 1984 and served on the Auckland Football referees management committee for nine years from 1999-2007. He also serves on the Victoria Park Cultural Trust, overseeing the referees' financial interests in the buildings and use of facilities for referee training and meetings. While also qualified as a referee coach, Bradford's 28 years of active refereeing still continues.



Rob McCarthy has devoted most of his club life to improving the junior section of his Ellerslie AFC club since becoming involved in the mid 1990's. He took on the accounts and administration of the junior club before moving to the more operational side, as he followed his children through age grades. McCarthy has also been involved in the annual round of grading youth teams into championship divisions for Auckland Football after the initial stage of competition.

## AFF LONG SERVICE MEDALS 2008



Bill Raffles first joined his club (then known as Cornwall AFC) as a junior in 1960, before turning to administration in 1979. He has been secretary, first team or reserve team manager for over 30 years and remains the heart of his club, still fundraising, creating match programmes as well as being the essential link to Auckland Football. He also served on the Auckland Football Senior Management Committee from 1980-1983.



Although Jeremy Ruane is not specifically attached to a club or an appointed official of the game, he is instantly recognisable to anyone who has an interest in Auckland Football through his writings for local media and his own web site. His passionate promotion of football, and in particular the women's game, has aided greatly to the development of the sport in the Auckland region and comes at the end of a year in which women's football has taken central stage.

## AFF LONG SERVICE MEDALS 2009



Nga Kairua joined as a referee in 1984, and after a short break, continues to serve the game today. He has totalled 21 years of active service, and in the past five years also acting as a referee coach passing on his experience to others. He served as president on the committee of the Counties Manukau Referees Association from 1988 to 1996 and as the Senior Appointments Officer for what was then Soccer2 from 2006-07. Nga's daughter Tiana is one of the Auckland Football Federation's leading young female referees.



Pam Luhrs has been involved in the Papatoetoe AFC club since joining as a player in 1987. After being elected secretary in 1993, Pam still holds that role today. Over the years Pam has managed a number of club ladies teams, was part of the women's group reporting to the Board of Soccer2 in 2000. Having also filled a number of other roles for Papatoetoe AFC, Pam was honoured with life membership of the club in 2003, and in 2006 received an external Services to Sport award.



Yvonne White was elected to the Manurewa AFC junior club committee in 1972, and was registration secretary until 1984. During this time she represented the club as delegate to the Franklin and district Junior Football Association (JFA), became chair and represented the JFA to the Franklin Control Board. Yvonne has served two stints as club secretary; from 1985-1992 as well as from 2000-2009. Yvonne was awarded life membership of the club during her first period as club secretary.



Terry Smith was first active as a referee in 1973 and is still doing his time in the middle after no less than 37 years. He has found time along the way for two stints as publicity officer; firstly for the Counties Manukau Referees Association and later the Auckland Soccer Referees Association. As an assistant referee in national leagues from 1979-85 Smith was recognised by his peers in 2008 as winner of the Ian Hiscox Trophy for services to refereeing.

## AFF LONG SERVICE MEDALS 2009



Ivy Vela has served as Central United FC secretary with dignity and grace providing a service to members at her club level for 14 years. She is also a background figure also at franchise entity level since Auckland City FC's creation for the NZFC. She received recognition in 2006 as the NFSL Administrator of the Year award and then was honoured by Sport Auckland in 2007 with a Service to Sport Award.



Roy Cox began his involvement in football in New Zealand as a reserve team coach at Eden AFC in 1972 - just a year later he got the job of treasurer and secretary. Cox then made an indelible mark in his promotion of women's football by coaching women's club teams at Eden, Three Kings United and University-Mt Wellington AFC, and leading the Auckland representative team in three stints covering 11 years, (seven of them unbeaten) taking eight national titles. A shield bearing his name is played for between Auckland and Wellington representative teams. Cox is chairman of the University-Mt Wellington club.

AFF LONG SERVICE AWARDS 2010



Brian Teirney has been a part of the Junior/Youth Division of Ellerslie AFC for over 20 years, moving from a parental support/coaching role over the initial years into an administrative role. He has overseen the doubling of the Division's playing numbers whilst also taking on a prime role in the development of the Tamaki League, involving 6th-11th grade players in the greater Auckland area.



Graham Whitford joined the Auckland Soccer Referees Association in 1982. He rose through the ranks from local football all the way up to Northern Premier League and National League. In addition to his refereeing, he has been looking after the apparel needs of the referees, uniforms, flags, whistle's and providing a service that is second to none around the country.



Mate Tolj has served the game across a number of sectors for a staggering period of 44 years since becoming involved with Central United FC. In that time, he has held every position in the club and was awarded life membership in 1999. Tolj also served as an Auckland Football administrator in years gone by and has also totalled approximately 20 years of service as a referee of the game.



David Downing began his association with his club in 1982. He coached his son's eighth grade midget team in 1984 and since that time he has filled a number of roles with the club. He was an integral part of the group that worked towards the amalgamation of Green Bay Titirangi and Blockhouse Bay that saw the birth of the club he still serves – Bay Olympic.

## AFF LONG SERVICE AWARDS 2010



Colin Sargent transferred from Cornwall FC to Mt Roskill AFC in the mid-1960's and quickly established himself in the first team of the club. He went on to complete around 300 league and cup appearances over the next 20 years. He served on the Executive at Mount Roskill AFC and then Three Kings United FC following the merger with Eden AFC and is a Life Member of the club. He currently serves on the Senior Playing Committee at Three Kings United.



Margaret McKenna has been involved in the game for more than 20 years and built her club – Papatoetoe United - from scratch. She established the junior club before developing its senior branch and has been the one and only club president since its inception during the 1990s. McKenna has already been honoured with a Counties Manukau Sports Award in 2002, life membership of her club in 2005 and a Papatoetoe Service to Sport award.

## AFF LONG SERVICE AWARDS 2010



Malcolm McGill (Eastern Suburbs AFC)

Malcolm has been involved at Eastern Suburbs at an administrative level for 25 years and for a large portion of that time he served as the club secretary. He has given countless hours of time voluntarily, even though his own son stopped playing football in 2003 and he has only recently resigned as president of the club. The Eastern Suburbs club believe they will always be in debt to Malcolm for the fantastic work he has put in on their behalf.



David Owen (Papatoetoe AFC)

David has been associated with his club, Papatoetoe AFC, for over 40 years. He started out as a junior player in 1968. His commitment continued as he moved on to the Executive Committee fulfilling roles as sponsorship coordinator for two years, Club Captain for three years, Vice President for two years and President for six years. In addition to that outstanding service, David has coached both junior and senior teams. He was awarded life membership of Papatoetoe AFC in 2000.



Mark Bignell (Beachlands Maraetai AFC)

Mark began playing for his club, Beachlands Maraetai AFC, at age six, soon after it was formed. He took up coaching a junior side at Beachlands at just age 16 before adding a second junior team to his coaching commitments. He then instigated the club's first senior men's team at age 18. His outstanding service to his club also extends to administration where first served on the committee before becoming president at age 22. Having also served as a committee member, he became the first Life Member of the club in 2009.



Ken Wallace (AFF Referees)

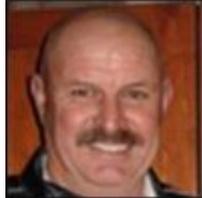
Ken has been a member of Auckland Referees since joining the old old ASRA in 1977, obtaining his NZ Badge in 1970. He enjoyed a refereeing career that encompassed National League and Chatham Cup finals, international matches at Senior, Under 17 and Under 20 level as well as a Futsal World Cup. Since retiring in 1997 he has spent the past 14 years dedicated to referee development and committee work at the highest level.

## AFF LONG SERVICE AWARDS 2011



Vic Larnder (Green Bay Titirangi-Bay Olympic)

Vic joined the Green Bay Titirangi Soccer Club in 1983 and spent many years coaching junior football. In 1986 he became a member of the Green Bay Titirangi Committee. Vic spent many years coaching and managing senior women's teams and he was made a Life Member of Green Bay Titirangi in 1997, automatically making him a current Bay Olympic Life Member. He has been a member of the Bay Olympic Committee and served for many years on the club's Senior Committee and in 2007 was elected as one of six Bay Olympic Trustees.



Carol and Stewart Ritchie (Ellerslie AFC)

This double act have led the way as committed and passionate Ellerslie players, administrators and loyal supporters for nearly 40 years each. Their legacy, their children, are now key figures in the men's and women's teams of the Ellerslie club in 2011. But it is as dedicated administrators that they have, and are still now, marking their mark. Already long-time Life Members of the club, they continue to be present every weekend collecting results, putting up nets and staking out flags while supporting from the side-line with great spirit.



Gary Keegan (Otahuhu Utd AFC/AFF Referees)

A Life Member of Otahuhu United AFC, Gary has served as a committee member of the club on and off since the 1980s, totalling approximately 25 years' service at committee level. He is also the club's newly elected president for the 2012 season. Gary has also provided 23 years of refereeing service, firstly as a referee and now as an assessor, passing on his advice to referees at all levels of the game from the local park referee to the Northern Regional Football League.



Andy Leader (Fencibles Utd AFC)

Andy joined Howick AFC in 1986 and went on to play with Fencibles United AFC when the club formed in 1997. In his 25-year association with Howick and Fencibles, he has held positions in coaching, convening, junior and youth captain, committee member and as Napier Under-19 team manager. Andy is also a Life Member of Fencibles United AFC.

AFF LONG SERVICE AWARDS 2011



Stephen Ashworth (Clendon Utd AFC)

Stephen became affiliated with the Clendon United AFC club when his oldest child started playing as a fifth grader in 1995. The following year he started playing himself before joining the committee and over the past 16 years he has held various positions at different times including secretary and currently treasurer. As well as continuing to play himself, he has coached a number of the junior teams his three children have played in over the years, helping them to grow through the club. Stephen has also completed his Level 1 referees qualification.



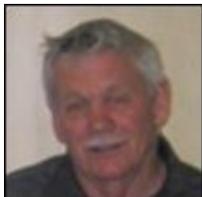
Annette Ockleston (Green Bay Titirangi-Bay Olympic)

Annette began her association her Green Bay Titirangi United club 30 years ago in 1981 - holding the position of secretary until 1984, president from 1984-1985, plus two other stints as secretary. She became a Life Member of Green Bay Titirangi in 1986. An integral part in establishing Bay Olympic Soccer & Sports Association - the merging of Blockhouse Bay Soccer & Green Bay Titirangi – Annette was a member of the Executive Committee of the new club and also served as its secretary while holding the same position for Green Bay Titirangi United.



Henri Habraken (Beachlands Maraetai AFC)

Henri started out by coaching his seven-year old son's Beachlands Maraetai AFC team in 1997 – a role he held for 13 seasons. The team stayed together into senior football when Henri coached them in the 2008 and 2009 seasons as one of two senior men's teams at the club. The core of that team formed the club's first team and reserve squad for the 2010 season as they won promotion to the AFF Championship division. Henri also served as the club's president from 1999 until 2001 before a stint on the club's committee from 2002 to 2010. Henri is one of two Life Members at BMAFC.



Wally and Maureen Burnside (Mt Albert-Ponsonby AFC)

Wally and Maureen Burnside – two people who have invested a remarkable 40 years of their lives in their club, Mt Albert Ponsonby AFC. The club was literally built by one half of the pair – the current clubrooms at Anderson Park are Wally's work - while Maureen ran the kitchen and served as cleaner of the building her husband created. Both have been involved in all areas of the club's operations, holding every position on the committee while also running the club's junior section and serving as coaches or managers with many teams. Both are Life Members and are presently Patrons of the club and their dedication continues to this day as they support the senior teams on match-day.

## AFF LONG SERVICE MEDALS 2012

### David Robertson (Papatoetoe AFC)

David has been associated with Papatoetoe AFC for an impressive span of 43 years. His service began as a seven year old junior player in 1969 and he continued on to play for the club and in 2012 turns out for the club's Over 35 side. His loyal commitment to the club also covers a two-year stint as president as well as service as a executive committee member.

### Lynn Fox (AFF Referees)

Lynn has served the game as a referee for a period of more than 20 years. She began as a referee in the Junior game in the Counties Manukau area in 1990. In 1992 she began officiating in senior men's football and began the first woman to officiate in the Franklin Knockout Cup final. Lynn continued to break barriers for women as she became the first NZ female to attain FIFA status as an Assistant Referee in 2000 and was rewarded with appointment to the Sydney Olympics. After retiring from active refereeing two years later, she turned to coaching and administration where she now serves as an assessor and instructor.

### Kerry Bevan (Manurewa AFC)

Kerry joined the Manurewa AFC club in the 1980's when he took his son along to join and ended up coaching the team. He was elected to the Junior Committee and was eventually elected chairman, a position he held for some years before becoming chairman of the Manurewa club in 1999, a position he still holds in 2012. He was made a Life Member of the club in 2003.

### Stephen Horst (Metro FC)

Stephen has been a member since he was born - following on from his parents who were also involved in the club - and he has been a member all his life. He has either coached or managed junior, senior and women's teams for most of that time and has been part of the club's committee 20 of those years.

### Hengo Sioneloto (AFF Referees)

Hengo joined the then Auckland Soccer Referee Association in 1983 and has been a member of the referees group every year since - 2012 is his 29th season of consecutive membership. He was awarded his NZ Badge in 1990. Hengo's talent and ability saw him operate on the National League as an Assistant Referee in the mid 1990's. Hengo has completed a fitness test every year of his membership.

### Michael Marinovich (Central Utd FC)

Michael began his involvement as a player with Central United in 1967 and he played one game for the club's first team before injury forced him to retire. In 1983 he began coaching teams at the club, something he still does, while in 1999 he began an administrative role with the club's junior section. In 2003 he became the club's Junior Co-ordinator and at present he runs the entire junior section of 48 teams while also being part of the club's Senior Management Committee.

### Gary Carter (Metro FC)

Gary joined the Metro FC club in 2003 and since then his loyal service has included a number of roles; coaching several youth teams, Junior/Youth Coordinator as well as committee positions of secretary, acting chairman and treasurer. Gary also serves Auckland Football as a regular volunteer in both the judicial process and on the youth competition grading.

### Linda Mellor (Bay Olympic)

Linda's link with Green Bay began in 1988 as treasurer. She has been involved since that time in a number of roles including secretary, player and junior coach. She was made a life member in 1995. In 1998, Green Bay-Titirangi and Blockhouse Bay formed Bay Olympic and Linda stayed involved in the roles of secretary and bar manager since 2005.

### Stephanie Brown (AFF Referees)

Stephanie began her referee career in 1989 with the Auckland Soccer Referees Association. After 23 years of dedicated service she remains an active referee while she also has been passing on her knowledge as a qualified referee assessor. In 2008 she took on the voluntary role of Referee Appointments Officer for Auckland Football in a role which sees 3000 referee appointments made per year. Stephanie has been recognised by Sport Waitakere with a Sporting Acknowledgement Award.

### Kevin Prosser (Papakura City FC)

Kevin has been a valued member of Papakura City FC for 23 years, serving on the executive committee for that extensive period. His service to the game includes the Federation level where he has served on various youth grading committees and judicial panels. Kevin was also a referee member of the former Counties Manukau Association.

## AFF LONG SERVICE MEDALS 2012

### Terry McCahill (Lynn-Avon Utd AFC)

Terry first joined Avondale United – a club which later became Lynn Avon United - in 1993, playing for the women's premier league side until 2008, serving as captain for the majority of those years. Terry also had an illustrious career representing both Auckland and New Zealand, serving as captain for both. She has served her club as junior coach, working as a committee member and women's delegate for the club to the federation, club secretary and chairperson.

### Anil Ranchhod (Papatoetoe Utd)

Anil has served in several different roles in his 10 years with his club including coach, manager, club treasurer and vice president. He was the prime leader in starting the Whole of Football Plan First Kicks and Fun Football programmes. Anil was rewarded in 2008 when he became a life member of the club. He also received a local service to sports award in 2010.

### Martin Baucutt (AFF Referees)

Martin initially joined the Auckland referee ranks in 1987 and has since been a member of the Franklin, Counties Manukau and Auckland Football Referees groups. In that 25-year period of service, he has served as a match official at all levels but also in a large number of voluntary and committee roles. Martin's service also extends to referee assessing and to referee education.

## AFF LONG SERVICE MEDALS – 2013

Paula Seibert (Onehunga Mangere Utd AFC) – Paula has been associated with her club, Onehunga Mangere Utd AFC, for an impressive span of over 15 years. A member of the Onehunga Mangere Utd AFC committee, she is always offering her services without hesitation, be it organising tournament days at the club, playing and managing the women's "Dunks" team or filling in when required behind the club bar. Paula has been involved with the club's Management Committee, who look after the actual running of the Onehunga Mangere Sports Club and she is also involved with the Onehunga Mangere United softball code, which is part of the club.

Helen Keegan (Otahuhu Utd AFC) – Helen has been a member of her Otahuhu United AFC club for 30 years. Over the first 10 year period of her involvement, Helen managed either her son's or daughter's football and cricket teams in the junior and youth grades. Her club – Otahuhu Utd AFC – had junior and senior cricket sides as part of the club – still fielding a senior cricket side. Helen has been on the committee for 15 years holding many different roles including gear, sponsorship, registrations, canteen and secretary, some of these at the same time while also liaising with council on the move of the club from Bert Henham Park to Seaside Park in 2001.

Brian Stanyer (Mt Albert-Ponsonby AFC) – Brian came to his Mt Albert-Ponsonby AFC club as a first team player in 1977. He has held coaching and management roles for most senior teams over the many years he has been involved at the club and has held every club executive committee position, and has been crucial to the club's administration and financial wellbeing. A life member of Mt Albert-Ponsonby, Brian has maintained some 35 plus years of consistent service and is the first to organize and carry out any work if needed at the club. He has shown strong leadership and is the person that everyone turns to regardless of the role he is in - helping many young club members during their time at the club.

Paul Mason (AFF Referees) – Paul joined the Auckland Soccer Referees Association, now the Auckland Football Federation Referees, in 1982 - he has been a member ever since. He started his referee career by refereeing youth matches and gradually worked his way up the referee ranks culminating in his appointment as a referee on the NRFL Premier division. Formerly a player until the age of 18, Paul has also been involved in coaching at Fencibles Utd and Three Kings Utd in addition to contributions to representative sides, Weir Rose Bowl teams and Napier U-19 tournament squads.

Rick de Vries (Bay Olympic) - Rick began his voluntary 20-year involvement with Green Bay/Titirangi Soccer in 1993 as assistant coach for his son's midget team at Parrs Park. He remained involved with the junior section of the club throughout the period of its merger with Blockhouse Bay to form Bay Olympic, instrumental in establishing a database for recording coaches and their coaching qualifications. A life member of Bay Olympic, he joined the Bay Olympic Executive Committee in 2005/06, became Vice Chairperson in 2006/07 and served as Chairperson from 2007/08 through to this year. Rick was a key player in the establishing the new changing room/toilet block at Crum Park while also playing a pivotal role in seeing the club accredited with New Zealand Football Quality Club Mark Level 1 status in 2013.

Wayne Jensen (Manurewa AFC) - Wayne joined Manurewa AFC as a convert from rugby in 1976 and continued playing for the club until 1984. He was a member of the team that won Franklin 1st Division championship in 1982 and was awarded the Semple Trophy as Player of the Year. After finishing his playing career, our volunteer moved into team management and coaching for a period spanning two decades across junior, youth and senior sides. Also involved on the club's administration, he has served as Junior Committee Chairman for three years while also serving as Vice Chairman of Control Board since 2008, a position he still holds today. Wayne has also managed the club kitchen for the last five years while also serving as a club sponsor, providing numerous Raffle Prizes, helping with fundraising, assisting with club maintenance and being a mediator for the club.

Debbie Apanui (Bay Olympic) – Debbie joined Green Bay/Titirangi Soccer in 1996/1997 as a player in the club's women's side. After a short period time off to start a family, she returned as a youth team coach and as a member on the Senior Social Committee for Bay Olympic, carrying on through to 2006. After an 18-month stint overseas, Debbie returned to Bay Olympic as age group Convenor, Women's Representative on the Executive Committee, Social Committee Member and all round club helper. Continuing in those positions right through to 2013, she has found the time over the last three years to be the Club's Whole of Football Plan Coordinator at Parrs Park while also serving as 6th-9th grade Club Convenor for the last two years and organising the club's trophies for presentation at the club senior prize-giving.

## AFF LONG SERVICE MEDALS – 2013

Robbie Cardwell (Otahuhu Utd AFC) - Robbie has been an active member of his Otahuhu Utd AFC club for 21 years. He has coached club teams in junior, youth and senior competitions over the last 18 years while holding numerous positions on the club committee for over 15 years. Currently serving the club as its chairperson, he has also held previous roles of Bar Manager and club captain. Robbie's service to the game also extends to refereeing, becoming a club based referee in 2004; the same year he achieved his Level 1 accreditation. In 2010 he became a Level 2 referee and now referees either youth or senior football matches during the season.

Maylene Featherstone (Beachlands Maraetai AFC) – Maylene has provided a sum total of more than 40 years' service to football in Auckland. Beginning her playing career at Otahuhu aged 12, Maylene also played for or coached several sides in her time at Otahuhu, including stints with the men's teams, while also playing or coaching at Mt Wellington, Mt Eden, Kelston, Papatoetoe and Weymouth. Having founded the women's side at Beachlands Maraetai AFC, Maylene has been with the club for a period of 14 years; coaching a large number of youth and senior sides, in addition to her committee role with the club of which she was awarded life membership in 2012.

Kris McGregor (Bay Olympic) – Kris began her association with Bay Olympic when her children took up the sport. For the first few years she helped the then Junior Coordinator with registrations and team selections before eventually taking over the Junior/Youth Coordinators role within the club, organizing yearly registrations, newsletters, muster days, photo nights and prize-givings – for which she is still responsible each year. Kris maintains the club Junior/Youth database, also stepping up to be the Club Treasurer in 2009, fine-tuning the club's accounting systems to the level required by the auditors. Kris has been a key player in the club's achievement of Level 1 Quality Club Mark status, and has also served the federation; joining the youth grading committee in 2013.

## AFF LONG SERVICE MEDALS – 2014

Sheryl Cardwell (Otahuhu United AFC) – Sheryl became involved with Otahuhu 24 years ago when her eldest son of four children began playing for the club at the age of four. The other three children also started playing at a young age and her daughter has just completed 16 seasons of continuous playing for Otahuhu. Over the years Sheryl has always been the manager of one of her children's teams and an active supporter of her other children's teams. She ran the canteen and acted as a cleaner at the club's old Bert Henham Park grounds before joining the committee. Among many other jobs, she continued to look after the canteen and help behind the bar when Otahuhu moved to Seaside Park, spending every winter Saturday at the club from 9am. Sheryl has been off the committee for two years but is still involved with Otahuhu through the women's team and in the summer with the club's men's cricket team, for whom two of her sons play.

Tam Cramer (AFF Referees / Pukekohe AFC) – Tam first qualified as a referee in London in 1997 before immigrating to New Zealand a year later and joining Wellington Referees. He became part of the Wellington Referee Committee in 2000 and went on to become secretary for two years before relinquishing his role at the end of 2004. During his tenure in Wellington, Tam was a referee and assistant referee at Central League level, being honoured as the Wellington Referee of the Year in 2001 and 2004. He participated in many tournament finals before gaining his Level 1 assessor accreditation in 2004 and concentrating on assisting new and youth referees. He joined Auckland Football Referees in 2006 and continued to provide service to the game, not only in refereeing but also as a coach of many teams at Pukekohe AFC, including the club's NRFL side. In 2010, Tam decided to focus on assessing and you will see him out and about each weekend, mainly in the South Auckland area passing on his knowledge of 17 years as a player, coach, referee and referee assessor to the next generation of referees.

Bob Douglas (University-Mt Wellington AFC) – Bob has been on the committee of the Mt Wellington club and then the amalgamated University-Mt Wellington since 1989. He has served as treasurer for much of that time and for lengthy spells as chairman or president, which is the title he currently holds. During this period, the Mt Wellington club – as one of the highest profile and highest achieving in the country – has gone through long periods when the committee and stalwarts like Bob have had to be incredibly involved and committed to its running. This involvement has ranged from fundraising activities to managing the bar in the clubrooms and many other duties. He is still active in these areas and remains an important pillar of the club's administration. He is, of course, a life member of University-Mt Wellington and has also served as an administrator for the Auckland Football Association and the Northern Regional Council.

Barend Hummels (Manurewa AFC) – Over a large number of years, Barend has demonstrated a huge passion and true dedication to both Manurewa AFC and football in general. His involvement first began as a junior player for Manurewa, who he joined way back in 1963 as a four-year-old. He played for the club through all the junior grades and was also a district representative for Franklin before moving into senior football. He took up coaching while still a player and was hugely influential in this capacity at Manurewa, leading the 1982 National League reserve team to the title and completing the double in also winning the Franklin Cup. Barend was also responsible for helping to develop and support the club's first team in creating a pathway for players to progress and aspire to National League level. He retired from playing in 1994 and became a keen worker behind the scenes. He has served as the lead groundsman for match day pitch preparation over many years, firstly at Gallagher Park and now today at Memorial Park. He is still an active member of the Manurewa club and received a life membership in 2010 for his work on various committees and involvement in both youth and senior coaching.

Dave Mellor (Bay Olympic) – Dave joined Green Bay-Titirangi in 1985 when his son DJ came home from school one day and said he wanted to join the football club his friends belonged to. This led to Dave becoming involved in coaching at the club, as well as being an active participant in fundraising events through to 1992. A break then occurred until 2004 when DJ came back to play football once again, this time with the newly-formed Bay Olympic. As well as supporting DJ and his team, Dave became the club's maintenance man, doing any odd jobs needed and helping with working bees. He had a stint on the executive committee for three years from 2007 and was made a life member of Bay Olympic in 2010. He gained his bar manager's licence a couple of years later so he could help out behind the bar and, for the last seven years, has also coached the Bay Olympic Small Fries programme for under-five players with his wife Linda. Every Saturday morning during the winter, he can be seen at Olympic Park from 8am setting up the fields, followed by an hour of coaching, having fun and bonding these new players to the sport and club he loves. Two of his grandsons have already participated in the Small Fries programme and another two are due to follow over the coming years.

## AFF LONG SERVICE MEDALS – 2014

Joanne Powell (Western Springs AFC) – Joanne has had a long association with the Western Springs club and has performed a wide variety of roles during this time. Much of her involvement has centred around the junior and youth sections of the club with her commitment and input proving invaluable. She was chairperson of the Western Springs juniors for over a decade and has been the club's junior representative to Auckland Football for the last 15 years. Ten of these years have been spent on the grading committee while Joanne has also organised the central sevens junior cluster for the last five years. She has also had a big impact on the coaching side of the club, taking junior teams and organising other members of her family to coach teams, as well as undertaking grade coordinator roles. Joanne also runs the junior Whole of Football Plan programme at Western Springs and organises the draw for all in-house football. She is currently secretary of the executive committee and manages the club's U-19 team that competes at the national tournament in Napier each year. Away from the pitch, she updates the club website and coordinates the Goalnet/Sporting Pulse products for academies and school holidays programmes.

Verne Russell (Bay Olympic) – Bay Olympic have much to thank Verne Russell for as he was one of the driving forces behind the amalgamation of Green Bay-Titirangi and Blockhouse Bay and has given a wealth of his time to the club, serving as a member of both the executive and social committees for many years. His 45 years in the game began as a five-year-old at the now defunct Sparta club in Newmarket and the hardworking striker went on to become an Auckland age-group representative. He was selected for the Avondale College first XI as a fourth former and played for the team for five years but, shortly after leaving school, was diagnosed as suffering from hyper tension. That meant his playing career had to be put on the backburner at the tender age of 19 but he later played at over 30s level for Mt Albert-Ponsonby before beginning his long association with Blockhouse Bay. Verne was player-coach of the reserve team and joined the committee before finishing playing in his late 40s. He played a vital role during the amalgamation process and served as chairperson of Bay Olympic for two very successful years, during which the men's first team won the NRFL Premier League. He has also coached during this time, taking charge of the first XI at Lynfield College and mentoring the teams of his son Dylan through the grades, culminating in coaching the Bay Olympic reserve team this year. Verne was nominated as a board member of Waitakere United when it was formed and is a life member and trustee of Bay Olympic.

Rick Segedin (Bay Olympic) – Rick joined Green Bay-Titirangi, one of the founding clubs of Bay Olympic, back in 1992 when his son Ivan began playing football. He has been involved in managing and helping coach teams over many years and joined the Bay Olympic executive committee in 2002, a role he held until late 2007. Rick was a member of the Parks Committee and, with a background in the practical aspects of playing field development, played a key role in advising and helping keep the fields Bay Olympic uses in good condition. This also involved playing an active part in designing the new, modern four-team changing rooms and toilet complex at Crum Park and overseeing the installation of a new path up to field three at the ground, replacing the inadequate stairs. Always happy to give up his time, Rick is a regular at working bees and lends a hand in setting up the Olympic Park field for premier and reserve team games throughout the season. He received a life membership from Bay Olympic in 2010.

Paul Smith (AFF Referees / Lynn-Avon United AFC) – Paul has given over 30 years of service to the game, firstly as a player, then as a club administrator and referee. He is currently employed as the Referee Development Officer for Auckland Football but his introduction to the game came at Ken Maunder Park, where he played and then served as secretary for Lynndale, as the club was known before amalgamating with Avondale United in 1996 to form Lynn-Avon United. It was also where he took his first steps on the refereeing road, setting in motion an assistant referee career that would take in the 1999 FIFA Confederations Cup and FIFA U-17 World Cup final before reaching its summit with the 2002 FIFA World Cup in Japan and South Korea. Paul joined the Auckland Soccer Referees Association in 1981 and has been a member ever since, aside from a short period from 2004 when he moved to Northern Football Referees. He re-joined Auckland Football Referees when he was appointed as Referee Development Officer of AFF and, since retiring from refereeing in 2004, has continued to be involved as an assessor at both local and regional level. He has been a member of the New Zealand Football Referees Committee for six years and is a fixture every weekend at games throughout the Auckland region.

Mark Vincent (AFF Referees) – Mark joined the Auckland Soccer Referees Association in 1996 and has been heavily involved in refereeing ever since, giving 18 years of service to football. In 1998 he gained his New Zealand Metal Badge, which was the equivalent of today's Level 4 qualification. To do so after only two years as a referee was quite unheard back in the late 1990s. That showed the potential and talent Mark possessed as a referee. Once the qualification was gained, Mark's career blossomed and he quickly moved up the ranks as a Northern League referee, culminating in him being named the NRFL Official of the Year in 2009. This gained him a trip to Brisbane as the Auckland Football referee to accompany the Lotto NRFL All Stars team. Mark was also involved at national level, firstly as an assistant referee in the 2001-02 National League and then as a referee in 2003. In 2008, Mark gained his assessor qualifications and combined this with his refereeing duties until 2013 when injury started to curtail his refereeing and he began to assess more than referee. A year later, he announced his retirement from active refereeing and offered his services as part of the AFF Referee Committee, as well as concentrating on his assessing duties. He also volunteers his time to help co-ordinate fitness tests for referees.

