



From the Archery Australia President

New Inductees into the Archery Hall of Fame

On Saturday 27 February Simon Fairweather and Jim Larven were inducted into the Archery Australia Hall of Fame at a special function held in Liverpool, Sydney.

Their induction is recognition for their outstanding contribution to our sport over many years and is awarded to only four people each year.

Simon was Australia's first Olympic Gold medallist in Archery with that memorable competition at the Sydney 2000 Olympics. He was also Australia's first World FITA Champion in 1991 as a 21 year old. His representative career saw him compete in 10 World Championships, and hold 12 Australia National Championships. He was awarded an Order of Australia in 2000, Life Membership of Archery Australia in 2001, and inducted into the Australian Sportsman Hall of Fame in 2009. He is now the Archery Australia Head National Coach.

Jim Lavern's career in archery as a competitor and administrator spans over 45 years. He has represented Australia in 8 World Championships, and won over 40 national individual and team medals. Jim was the competition Manager for the Sydney Olympics and Paralympics and has served on the Board of Archery Australia, Archery NSW as well as being a FITA International Judge and Director of Shooting and Technical Delegate to many international events. He became CEO of Archery Australia in 2002.

Other inductees were Grace Drake and Syd Green.

Grace Drake was a pioneer lady tournament archer and administrator from Perth. Mrs Drake was the first ladies champion in the inaugural Australian National Championships in 1948 winning target, clout and flight. Along with her husband, Laurie she helped establish the Archery Association of Australia. She was a member of Perth Archery Club, Sydney Bowmen, and Archery NSW. In her career she won 18 National Titles and continued to compete up until the 1990's when she was in her late 80's. A remarkable woman and pioneer in our sport.

Syd Green had a long involvement with the Australian Bowhunters Association as President, competitor and administrator. He was awarded life membership of ABA in 1995 and awarded a Sports Australia Award for Administrator of the Year.

In addition a National Hall of Fame Medal was presented to Gretel Dabovich for her outstanding contribution to Archery in South Australia. Keith Gaisford from Archery WA was also honored with his service to the sport with the introduction of the Keith Gaisford Award, which was presented to Eric Creighton from Archery Action magazine.

Our congratulations to all recipients - they are all outstanding and worthy of their awards.

Historic meeting development with ABA and 3DAA

On Saturday 27th February 2010 an historic first ever meeting was held between the combined Executives of Archery Australia, The Australia Bowhunters Association (ABA) and 3D Archery Association of Australia (3DAAA). The meeting was a culmination of ongoing discussions since January to progress greater cooperation and collaboration between our associations.

The meeting agreed to form a Working Group to progress our aims of mutual cooperation and to provide a combined voice for archery in Australia whilst preserving the individual autonomy of our individual member associations.

The meeting reflected a great deal of determination, good will, cooperation and collaboration between all associations and we agreed on a set of priorities to progress as soon as possible. These included enabling each other members to participate in our tournaments and competitions – with details still to be worked out.

Progressing a common code of behaviour and conduct for all participants; collaborating on common marketing and promotion materials to increase community interest and participation in archery; the development of minimum standards of archery competency; and investigate a common affordable insurance cover to cover competitors across all disciplines.

In due course we will also work with dealers to implement responsible sale and resale of archery equipment and the promotion of clubs and instruction programs to people buying archery equipment for the first time.

When the announcement of the partnership was made at the Australian Hall of Fame Induction Dinner there was spontaneous applause from the over 400 guests. For many of our members who are also members of ABA and 3DAAA there is no doubt a sense of “about time”.

Brian Hagaman and Jim Larven will be the AA representatives on the 6 member Working Group.

This is a unique opportunity in time to progress greater cooperation with our colleagues in these other disciplines which will have tangible benefits for club archers who want to enjoy the many and varied facets of archery.

Greg Goebel
President
1 March 2010

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