

Citation for Life Member Margaret Davidson

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When the Johnson family arrived in Gore in 1962 Margaret was just nine years old. Three years later Marie Pollard had introduced her to Friday night basketball at the Gore Baths and she had joined up with the Diamonds Club.

Margaret progressed steadily and won selection to both the Eastern Southland under 18 team and the senior women's team in 1969.

Over the next fourteen years she represented Eastern Southland at senior level for a further seven seasons until 1982, participating in a South Island championship success in 1972, and the tour to Australia in 1978.

Always a cheerful and willing team member whether involved in on court action or off court fund raising, Margaret epitomized the voluntary spirit.

Margaret made a seamless transition from player to referee achieving her New Zealand badge in 1982, and maintained that qualification until 2005. She gained respect from players and coaches alike throughout the duration of the DB Southern League where she controlled both mens and womens games. In addition, she officiated on National League games for some six years, again covering mens and womens matches.

All the while Margaret was a constant and familiar figure blowing the whistle for club basketball but still found time to coach age group and senior teams and run mini ball. She also fulfilled the role of mentor to local referees for their first theory badges.

Turning her attention to the administrative side of basketball Margaret was elected to the Eastern Southland association committee in 1978, becoming vice president in 1984 and then president for two years in 1986 and 1987. She ended a total of twenty years service on the association in 2001, the concluding four years as referees delegate.

More recently Margaret added event organizer to her curriculum vitae as the driving force behind the hugely successful 50th jubilee celebrations held in May 2006.

Fiercely loyal to both her Diamonds club and Eastern Southland Association, Margaret's stewardship set a standard to be admired, emulated and ultimately acknowledged and honoured with life membership.