

Trio first into Hall of Fame

By David Brehaut

OLYMPIAN Ray Borner, and long serving administrators Ron Holmes and the late Don Punshon are the inaugural members of the Ballarat Basketball Association Hall of Fame.

The three were inducted at Ballarat Basketball's 100 year reunion on Saturday night.

The inductees took centre stage at the gala night, which was a who's who of the sport in Ballarat.

Punshon, who died in 2003, was represented by his widow Pat and son Alistair, who travelled from Adelaide to receive the honour.

Borner said Ballarat basketball held many good memories for him.

He said what appealed most about the sport was the opportunities it offered young people.

Borner said he could not understand how young people at a youth forum in Ballarat earlier in the week could proclaim to be bored.

He said there were so many opportunities in the Ballarat community for young people, whether it be the arts, music or sport.

Borner said it was up to parents and grandparents, and others, to encourage the youth of today to get in-

involved in activities such as basketball.

He said basketball had been good to him as a junior.

Borner left Ballarat as a teenager to pursue a career in the National Basketball League and internationally.

He returned in 2000 to coach the Miners in the South East Australian Basketball League.

Holmes said he was overwhelmed and deeply humbled by the honour.

He said he treasured the many friends he had made in basketball.

In his role as historian, Holmes compiled a 200-page publication to mark 100 years reunion.

The booklet, which took eight years to research, was distributed to each of the 350-plus in attendance on Saturday night.

Alistair Punshon said his father would have been humbled by of Hall of Fame membership.

He said his father had taken great pride in helping troubled young people improve their life through basketball.

Former champion juniors Jeff Dunne and Kellie Abrams were keynote speakers at the dinner, which also featured Basketball Australia high performance manager Wayne

INDUCTEES:

RAY BORNER, OAM
Ballarat's first international representative
Four-time Olympian
Five-time world championship player
First Australian to win most valuable player award in National Basketball League
Ballarat Miners coach 2001-03
Wildcats Basketball Club chairman since 2001

RON HOLMES
60 years of continuous service to Ballarat Basketball Association
Association treasurer 1966-76
Association tribunal secretary 1977-88
BBA history since 1991
BBA life member since 1973

Late RON PUNSHON
Ballarat Basketball Association chairman 1964-76
Responsible for the move of basketball to the Minerdom
Presided over the development of basketball from a low-key activity to a professional sport in the city.
Played a major role in lifting the profile of the sport.
Made a BBA life member in 1970

Carroll, Basketball Victoria president Dan Kirtley, and Ballarat Olympians Robyn Maher and Allison Tranquilli among guests.

Ballarat Basketball club service awards were also presented.



INDUCTEES: Pat Punshon, Ray Borner and Ron Holmes at Saturday night's Ballarat Basketball Association Hall of Fame dinner. Picture: Daniel Hartley-Allen