



THE HON KATE ELLIS MP MINISTER FOR YOUTH

MEDIA RELEASE

9 October 2008

Australian sporting heroes honoured

The Federal Sports Minister, Kate Ellis, has congratulated the eight athletes and coaches who have been inducted into the Sport Australia Hall of Fame.

The inductees were announced at the 24th annual Sport Australia Hall of Fame dinner held in Melbourne on Wednesday night.

The Sport Australia Hall of Fame inductees for 2008 are:

Athlete Members: Alisa Camplin (aerial skiing), Ian Thorpe (swimming), David Nilsson (baseball), Todd Woodbridge (tennis), Mark Woodforde (tennis) and Allan Langer (rugby league).

General Members: John Carew (swimming coach) and Lou Richards (AFL and media).

“Australia has been blessed with generations of great sporting talent. The Hall of Fame awards are a wonderful way of recognising the inspirational efforts of these great Australians,” Ms Ellis said.

“The Sport Australia Hall of Fame not only recognises excellence on the field but all of its members, including the new inductees, admirably represent the strong Australian values of sportsmanship, integrity, courage and fairness.

“Sport is so much a part of Australian society and such a powerful tool for social change that we are honoured to have such fine Australian sporting ambassadors such as the people who have been inducted in the Hall of Fame.”

Prime Minister Kevin Rudd, who is patron-in-chief of Sport Australia Hall of Fame, presented Hall of Fame “Legend” status upon horse trainer, Bart Cummings. Cummings, who first won the Melbourne Cup in 1965 and is known as “The Cups King” for his record of 11 Melbourne Cup wins, became only the 28th Australian sportsperson to be afforded this high honour.

“As Bart is in his 58th year as a trainer and has won 249 Group One races, we always knew he was a Legend. Last month Bart was awarded ‘Legend’ status in the Australian Racing Hall of Fame so tonight’s honour is very fitting. At the age of 80, he’ll probably get his 250th Group One winner this spring,” Ms Ellis said.

Two of the new Hall of Fame members have links to the Australian Government’s strong commitment to sport. Tennis champion Todd Woodbridge is a former Australian Institute of

Sport scholarship holder and Alisa Camplin is a current board member of the Australian Sports Commission.

There are now 486 Australians whose excellence in sport, coaching, administration and media have been recognised with membership of the Hall of Fame.

The Australian Government, through the Australian Sports Commission, provides \$50,000 annually to support the activities of the Hall of Fame.

Media Contact: Neil Branch (Ms Ellis' Office) 0412 258 449