

Highest honour awarded to tireless volunteer



The Sporting Shooters Association of Australia (Victoria) presented the Association's highest honour to a tireless and devoted volunteer at the Wodonga Branch yesterday.

Max Grimshaw was awarded the Colonel Carre-Riddell Medal for the selfless and professional manner in which he has supported the Wodonga Branch, and the wider SSAA, since 1998.

The retired Australian Army Lieutenant Colonel was nominated for the accolade because he "daily demonstrated outstanding leadership, drive, vision and initiative to make an ongoing and outstanding contribution to the furtherance of the ideal of SSAA in Victoria".

SSAA Victoria Chief Executive Officer Jack Wegman, who presented the award, said Max's efforts in raising the profile of SSAA locally mirrored the outstanding efforts of Colonel Consett Carre-Riddell.

"Colonel Carre-Riddell was one of the founding fathers of the Association after World War II," he said. "He worked tirelessly over the years for the betterment of the shooting sports. The medal was struck as a memorial to his unstinting efforts to promote shooting sports and Max Grimshaw shares that tireless commitment to the shooting sports and his local branch."

Max's long list of achievements at the Wodonga shooting range include: being Chief Range Officer for the past 16 years, undertaking regular grounds maintenance, forming a Conservation and Pest Management Group in 2004, and managing local CPM activities with Parks Victoria, applying for three separate government grants, delivering a number of Junior Hunter Education courses, delivering a training program in the basics of shooting, leading the design and construction of a new clubhouse, coordinating the North-East Victorian Schools Shooting Competition and writing the Wodonga Branch Range Orders.

SSAA Wodonga President Josh Knight said Max was passionate about making the branch and shooting sport, in general, a success.

"I have never known Max to shoot in any of the competitions, but if Range Officers were needed, he was there," he said. "If the range needed mowing, Max would bring his ride-on lawn mower and spend the Saturday getting the range cleaned up. Whatever needed doing, he would do it. In fact, it was Max who inspired me to do more for the club than just use its resources."

Fellow SSAA Wodonga Range Officer Bob Gough said Max was an outstanding leader, a respected Army Officer, a devoted husband, a father to three high-achieving children and a "great bloke".

"He is very highly regarded and respected in the local area among government, police, council and schools, and is well known as the 'go to' person for shooting sports in Wodonga," Bob said.

While honoured to receive the award, Max wasn't one to take the credit for all of the above achievements. He said the medal recognised a team effort from the many volunteers at SSAA Wodonga.

"It really recognises not only my efforts but the efforts of other volunteers at this club who have given their time to make this club what it is today. That's the strength of this club – its volunteers," he said.

END

CAPTION: Colonel Carre-Riddell Medal recipient Max Grimshaw (left) with SSAA Victoria CEO Jack Wegman and SSAA Wodonga Branch President Josh Knight.

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