



The Hon Graham Annesley MP

Minister for Sport and Recreation

MEDIA RELEASE

Thursday 22 September 2011

HALL OF FAME WELCOMES FIVE NEW CHAMPIONS

Five outstanding Australians today became members of a highly distinguished group of athletes following their induction into the NSW Hall of Champions at the Sydney Olympic Park Sports Centre.

The Minister for Sport and Recreation, Graham Annesley, in announcing the inductees said, "It's my privilege to honour these five outstanding sports people who thoroughly deserve their place amongst the nation's best.

"These athletes have excelled in competition but more importantly continue to be great ambassadors for our State, country and the sport they represent."

As the State's premier sporting hall of fame and museum, the NSW Hall of Champions pays tribute to the outstanding achievements of sportsmen and women.

The five athletes to be inducted into the NSW Hall of Champions are:

- **Layne Beachley (Surfing)**
- **Brad McGee OAM (Cycling)**
- **Rex Johnston OAM (Lawn Bowls)**
- **Michael O'Loughlin (Australian Football)**
- **Andrew Johns (Rugby League)**

The Minister also congratulated John Raper, one of the greatest rugby league players of all time, who will be inducted into the NSW Hall of Legends.

The NSW Hall of Champions was established in 1978 and honours sports people dating back to 1876, with 336 athletes representing 50 different sports recognized in this prestigious hall of champions.

Exhibitions showcasing the museum's significant collection of memorabilia also help to bring the state's rich sporting heritage to life.

"Today's honourees will be joining other great Australian sporting legends like Dawn Fraser, Sir Donald Bradman, Sir Jack Brabham, Evonne Goolagong-Cawley and the legendary Dally Messenger," Mr Annesley said.

"Like the inductees who preceded them, I'm sure today's athletes will also be enduring role models for other aspiring athletes, sports enthusiasts and the wider community," Mr Annesley said.