



INF Service Award 2017

Citation for Dame Lois Muir Netball New Zealand

Coming from a small, conservative corner of southern New Zealand did nothing to deter the impact Lois Muir has had on netball both in New Zealand and around the world. One of sport's pioneers in the truest sense of the word, as a player, coach and administrator, Dame Lois' influence has been profound. A trailblazer as a player when vice-captain of the Silver Ferns at the first World Championships in 1963, Dame Lois continued to leave a blueprint for those who followed with an unrivalled and exceptionally successful 14-year tenure as Silver Ferns coach. That was backed up by her unstinting administrative capabilities that helped propel netball and women's sport into the limelight and onto an equal footing with their male counterparts.

Taking her place as a board member on many high-profile organisations helped Dame Lois gain leverage and expertise in the business and commercial worlds which greatly benefited netball. Dame Lois quickly became a household name and much admired figure in her own country but that admiration and influence spread far beyond New Zealand's shores as others took up her mantle in helping promote netball on the world stage. She has coached generations of players from primary school age to the elite with the same vigour and passion without prejudice or bias, her sole aim being focussed on improving the netballing skills.

Dame Lois' impact is probably best summed up through the eyes of the world's most capped netballer, Irene van Dyk. When emigrating to New Zealand and going on to become the world's greatest shooter, van Dyk had just the one wish at the time, and that was to be coached by Lois Muir. Across the playing, coaching and administrative arenas, Dame Lois has proved peerless in her relentless and selfless quest to continue to grow netball, all done in a voluntary capacity for over 50 years.