

Getting juniors to play squash

By CAMERON WHITELEY

LEON Barnett's dedication to growing the game of squash in Tasmania, and especially on the Coast, is without question.

The 73-year-old has been involved with squash for 40 years, including seven years as an administrator and 10 as a coach.

In his time coaching, Barnett has mentored more than 100 juniors while also facilitating a squash in schools program targeted at primary school-aged children.

Currently, he is the Devonport Squash Club coach, organising a structured training program every Tuesday night and enabling the club to form a junior squash pennant.

For his efforts, Barnett has been bestowed an award in The Advocate-IGA Junior Sports Awards service to sport category.

The man who nominated him – Devonport Squash Club president Alan Blakers



Leon Barnett

– arrived in Tasmania six years ago, and was immediately taken by Barnett's commitment.

"He has absolute passion for the game and for bringing juniors into the game," Blakers said.

"He is passionate about bringing squash to schools and bringing juniors in from wherever he can find them.

"To see these kids bouncing around the court with smiles on their faces, that's due to Leon."

Along with his contributions to the sport on the Coast, Barnett is also the president of Squash Tasmania.

Barnett, along with others selected to be honoured in the service to sport category, will be recognised at awards night this month.