

Rowers win major national award



Bairnsdale Rowing Club was named as the 2018 club of the Year at Rowing Australia's annual awards gala dinner at the Sydney International Convention Centre on Saturday, November 3.

The evening celebrated the country's rowers and their successes during the year, with 13 awards presented during the evening.

The Club of the Year Award is awarded to the club that has made the most significant impact on their local community by promoting rowing participation and development during the year.

Bairnsdale Rowing Club was notified that it had been shortlisted for the award in early October and was honoured with the recognition.

Former club president, Ron Alexander, and women's club captain, Lynne Broad, attended the event on behalf of the club and early in the evening were quite taken in by the whole formalities.

Rowing Australia patron, Mrs Gina Rinehart, addressed the audience and presented the awards.

A special presentation was also made to Olympic gold medalist, Kim Brennan, who announced her retirement from the sport.

Ron and Lynne were pleasantly surprised to receive the award with the likes of Sydney University, Curtin University and Tasmania University rowing clubs also nominated for the award.

“This award was unexpected and is a great thrill,” Ron said.

“The club rows on a great river and is embracing every moment as it comes. We are more than just a small country club and this award shows we are doing many things right. We should feel proud of our achievements.

“We would also like to acknowledge the generous support we receive from the rowing community itself, whether it be through coaching sessions and donated or discounted secondhand equipment. It helps us help those wishing to learn to row at Bairnsdale.”

Lynne said she was surprised by the amount of people who were very supportive and interested in what the club was doing. She started her rowing career as a junior in Sydney at Nepean Rowing Club and is glad to be a Bairnsdale Rowing Club member.

PICTURED: Club of the Year representatives Ron Alexander and Lynne Broad, of Bairnsdale Rowing Club, alongside patron of Rowing Australia, Mrs Gina Rinehart, at the Rowing Australia’s annual awards gala dinner at the Sydney International Convention Centre on Saturday, November 3.