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**Sporting icon honoured at Deadly Awards**

**27 September 2011**

An icon of Indigenous sport was honoured at the 17<sup>th</sup> annual Deadly Awards, held at the Sydney Opera House on September 27.

Tennis legend Evonne Goolagong Cawley, AO, MBE was presented with the Ella Award for Lifetime Achievement in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Sport.

Australia's first Indigenous sporting family, The Ellas presented Evonne with her award on the night.

"Evonne is a true global sporting identity. In her lifetime she has changed the world for all of us. She has inspired the women and the men of Australia for generations and still continues to do so," Glen Ella said.

Marcia Ella said Evonne was a fitting recipient for the award.

"She will be remembered for her unequalled achievements, her unshakeable dignity and her uncompromising gracious sportsmanship, that still inspires us today," she said.

Evonne was born in Griffith and raised in Barellan, NSW. She is renowned both here and internationally for her skill on the tennis court, taking Australian women's tennis to new heights in the 70's and early 80s.

Evonne won 14 Grand Slam titles: seven in singles (four Australian Open, two Wimbledon and one French Open), six in women's doubles, and one in mixed doubles. She has won a total of 92 professional tournaments and at her second Wimbledon triumph in 1980, she became the first mother to hold that title since Dorothy Lambert Chambers in 1914.

Her journey as a proud Aboriginal Australian not only captured world attention, but raised awareness of our First Peoples in Australia at a time when it mattered most. Her first Wimbledon title in 1971 came only four years after the 1967 Referendum that enabled Aboriginals to be counted in the Census.

But Evonne firmly believed politics and sport should not be mixed. She let her natural sporting ability and achievements do the talking, and she played for the love of tennis not the money, nor the fame.

She has also been a mentor to Indigenous young people for the long haul. She has received a number of national and international accolades including being named Australian Sportsman of the Year and Australian of the Year, being inducted into the International Tennis Hall of Fame and the Indigenous Hall of Fame and receiving the IOC Women and Sport Trophy for her services. She is currently Co-Patron of Reconciliation Australia with Sir William Deane.

MEDIA RELEASE



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