

The late Ken Clifford awarded a Member of the Order of Australia (AM)

By Damon Cronshaw - Jan. 26, 2016, 1 a.m.



Good Sport: The late Ken Clifford was made a Member of the Order of Australia (AM) for service to sport in the Hunter. Picture: Ryan Osland

The late Ken Clifford has been honoured for his service to the Hunter's sporting community.

Mr Clifford, from Merewether Heights, was made a Member of the Order of Australia (AM) for "significant service to regional sport in the Hunter Valley".

Mr Clifford was Hunter Academy of Sport chief executive from 1988 to 2014.

Under his leadership, the academy evolved from a single basketball program to comprise squads from 28 sports, featuring more than 600 athletes.

He died in September last year after a long illness.

His wife Laraine Clifford fought back tears when speaking about the honour.

"He would have been very appreciative to think people went to the trouble to nominate him," she said.

She said he spent much time "trying to make an easier path for kids coming through, so they didn't have to always travel to Sydney".

He loved to be at sporting fields and support the players.

"He had real passion."