

EW (Ted) Tobin's Response to receiving Life Membership
(Extracts of speech)

20th Anniversary Dinner

University of Wollongong, 3 December 2005

"I think it reasonable to say that I'm not often caught for words but this is certainly one of those occasions.

This presentation of our first life membership is a wonderful, wonderful thing to happen to me and in the future I feel that there will be further recipients – and they will come – and feel as proud as I do.

It has been a wonderful journey, these 20 years, in the Illawarra Academy, or institute, as we started out.

I'll take a minute to mention that the reason for our change of name from the Illawarra Institute of Sport to the Illawarra Academy was because [then NSW Minister for Sport] Mike Cleary, got the shits because we went to the Feds and got the money and named ourselves the Illawarra Institute after the Australian Institute of Sport, and they were our first sponsor.

When we finally convinced Mike Cleary and others that we really should work through the state organization, it was made on the proviso that we should change our name to the Illawarra Academy to be more aligned to the state organizations.

At the time we were that desperate for funds necessary to run the institute, or academy, that I said '*we don't care what they call us so long as we do our job*'.

I'm also extremely proud of the fact that Illawarra – our academy – was instrumental in forming the combined regional academies of sport in NSW.

From small acorns great oaks have grown and there are 19 regional academies throughout Australia.

The proudest point of all is that ours was the first. I'd like to boast that it's also the best".
