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Sport NSW
*NSW Community
Sports Awards*
2020

Minister's Message

On behalf of the NSW Government, I would like to welcome everyone to the 2020 NSW Community Sports Awards, hosted by Sport NSW.

The Awards are a chance to celebrate the incredible achievements of individuals and organisations in what has been a difficult year during the pandemic.

Sport is the lifeblood of our communities, and I am so glad we were able to see many activities recommence earlier this year. To get back on the field of play was not easy and it required a significant amount of planning and effort from our community sport organisations and facility operators across NSW.

It is important we recognise the fantastic work that people behind the scenes have done to ensure we could take part in community sport activities and competitions.

Without volunteers, officials, coaches, managers and administrators, it simply wouldn't be possible to participate in sporting activities that we can often take for granted.

Thank you to those who took the time to nominate and recognise the people in their community that make sport happen.

I would like to acknowledge the work of Sport NSW for their efforts in delivering the 2020 awards virtually.

Enjoy the ceremony and congratulations to all of the nominees and winners.

The Hon. Dr Geoff Lee MP

Acting Minister for Sport

Minister for Skills and Tertiary Education

Acting Minister for Multiculturalism

Acting Minister for Seniors

Acting Minister for Veterans



Chairperson's Message

Welcome to a very special event in the NSW sporting calendar – the NSW Community Sports Awards for 2020.

This event is all about recognising the incredible contributions to sport at a grassroots level, and acknowledging the hundreds of thousands of people that voluntarily dedicate their time to sport in NSW each year.

The NSW Community Sports Awards look a bit different this year, with a virtual event being delivered in 2020 due to the ongoing impacts and challenges of coronavirus.

While we are unable to celebrate in person, we are extremely pleased that this event can be held in a new format, with recognition still provided to each of our incredible finalists and Distinguished Long Service Award recipients.

Community sport continues to be at the forefront of the NSW way of life, with a powerful ability to bring people together, to unite, inspire and drive a sense of belonging. Tonight we thank the passionate coaches, officials, administrators, teams, clubs and organisations that work so tirelessly to ensure community sporting activities can continue to be enjoyed across NSW.

Notably, we also recognise and highlight the remarkable efforts of 21 inspirational people who have dedicated more than 25 years of service to their chosen sport and will be presented with a Distinguished Long Service Award.

On behalf of the Board and staff of Sport NSW, we offer our best wishes to all finalists in their respective categories and extend a very special thank you and congratulations to our Distinguished Long Service Award recipients. Your unwavering commitment and devotion to your community and sport are an inspiration to us all.

We would also like to thank our valued partners for their generous support of the NSW Community Sports Awards and extend our appreciation to our member sporting organisations and local councils for their ongoing support of the program.

Finally, we thank the Acting Minister for Sport, The Hon. Dr Geoff Lee for his support of these awards and for his ongoing commitment and leadership to community sport in NSW.

Carolyn Campbell

Chairperson



Master of Ceremonies

Stephanie Brantz

Stephanie Brantz is a freelance sport presenter, reporter, producer and commentator, with over 15 years' experience across a wide range of sports.

Stephanie started her media career with the SBS Sports team in 2000 working on a football program of the time - On the Ball.

Since then, Stephanie has interviewed hundreds of athletes and personalities from a variety of sports, all as part of her work with SBS, Channel Nine, ESPN, ABC and Fox Sports.

Throughout her career, Stephanie has covered a number of elite sports events and competitions – a few highlights include the Kellogg's Nutrigrain Ironman Series, the 2006-07 Ashes Series, 2012 London Paralympic Games, Australian Tennis Open, US Tennis Open, FIBA World Cup and FIFA Women's World Cup.

Stephanie is a self-confessed 'sport nut', who is of Dutch/Indonesian heritage and has always had a passion for sports. Stephanie grew up in Brisbane and represented Queensland at State level competition in Netball, Basketball, Swimming and Athletics.

Stephanie is also an ambassador for '1goal' – an organisation raising funds and awareness for underprivileged children around the world, for AIEF – the Australian Indigenous Education Fund where she is involved in their student mentoring program and for The Chappell Foundation which raises funds to eradicate homelessness.



Sport NSW
The Voice of Sport

- ◆ Championing the value of community sport; inclusion, gender equity and accessibility for all;
- ◆ Advocacy for, and building connection between, all member sports and with governments and local communities;
- ◆ Education, leadership, and workforce development;
- ◆ Recognition - NSW Champions of Sport and NSW Community Sports Awards

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Leadership



Innovation



Integrity



Inclusion



Equality

Partners & Acknowledgements



Sport NSW would like to acknowledge the support of our valued partners shown above, without whom the NSW Community Sports Awards program would not be possible.

Additionally, we would like to thank the State Sporting Organisations and other industry members for their contributions and for taking the time to recognise and reward the volunteer officials, coaches, administrators, directors, clubs and events that shape community sport.

We would like to give thanks to Clarke Murphy Print for the production of the program and to Madzin Productions for the production and streaming of the virtual ceremony.

Finally, we would like to recognise the Community Sports Awards Judging Panel members including Stephanie Brantz, Andrew Hamilton, Kellie May, Gregory Will and Margot Zaska – thank you for volunteering your time to be a part of these awards.

Distinguished Long Service Award



Dave Boulton – *Australian Rules*

A staple of Australian Rules on the Sapphire Coast for over 35 years, Dave's contribution and service to the game, league and community has left a significant legacy. Dave's greatest impact has been through umpiring, including time as Head Umpire Coach and President of the Umpires Association. Dave is always the first to put his hand up and assist, and is well known for his mentoring of younger umpires. In 2019, Dave had an umpiring award named after him – a small recognition of his ongoing contributions.



Bob Butcher – *Rugby League*

Bob has been a stalwart of the Harbord United Devils Rugby League Club for almost 50 years. In this time, Bob has held a number of volunteer roles, including Club Secretary, District Registrar and a Club Coach. Bob has coached year after year, and has a focus on ensuring the children enjoy the sport and want to continue playing. Bob is extremely passionate and well-respected, and also dedicates time to mentor others and share his knowledge, ensuring the ongoing sustainability of the club.



Lorraine Clarke AM – *Special Olympics*

For the past 30 years, Lorraine has volunteered her time and expertise to Special Olympics, as well as many other organisations. Lorraine first became involved in 1990 as a founding member of Sydney Northern Club and has since held numerous committee positions including Secretary, Director of Aquatics, Basketball Coach and Chairperson. In 2018, Lorraine coordinated an Athlete Leadership Program, giving athletes support, mentorship and confidence. Her ongoing contributions are not unnoticed and are vital to the growth of the Special Olympics community.



Craig Dodd – *Paddle*

Craig has been a hard-working and humble committee member, event organiser, President and state delegate for decades. Craig's club level involvement has been through two clubs – Central Coast Paddlers for many years, before he founded Brisbane Water Paddlers in 2015, a club he is still the President of today. Craig's leadership style is inspiring, and he is known for getting the job done with minimal fuss. He also attracts other volunteers in the community and shares his vast experience and passion with everyone involved.

Distinguished Long Service Award



Richard Emmerick – *Fencing*

Richard is a champion of fencing, who founded Mountains Fencing Club in 1994, taking on the role of President and sole coach. Richard's commitment and energy helped the club grow and become the vibrant organisation it is today. Richard has made a significant contribution to fencing at all levels – from grassroots to elite, and has been dedicated to encouraging women participation and inclusivity at the club. Richard continues to support and mentor the developing committee and foster the growth of coaches, administrators and fencing participation at the club.



Margaret Francis – *Hockey*

Margaret has been involved with the Grafton Hockey Association for well over 25 years, involved with nearly every aspect of the association at one time or another. Margaret's greatest service has been to the association's facilities, driving the success of new facilities and leading a team of staff and volunteers that ensure the facility is well looked after. Margaret's ongoing dedication and management of the facilities has allowed Grafton to host community events and coaching camps, provide hockey players with quality coaching and competition and increase revenue.



Nigel Fricker – *Judo*

Nigel has been a member of Judo NSW since early 1970, later becoming a Life member in 2018. Winning bronze medals at the 1982 and 1983 Australian Judo Nationals, Nigel continued his involvement in Judo through officiating and directing. He has been a Board Director of Judo NSW since 2004 and Vice-President since 2007, regularly officiating at multiple club and state events as well. From setting up equipment at tournaments to rewriting the Judo Sporting Code, Nigel also mentors many officials and members and continues to have a positive impact on the organisation.



Rod Gibb OAM – *Athletics*

Rod has contributed a lifetime of service to athletics in NSW and has been a key official at two clubs in Nowra since 1961, including time as Secretary, Treasurer, President, Patron and team manager. His most significant contribution to athletics has been the development of his own property in Nowra into a world-class cross-country venue. Over the past 35 years, this venue has hosted three Australian championships, 30 NSW championships and thousands of school and club races. Rod's tireless work has provided countless opportunities to many athletes and the South Coast community for decades.

Distinguished Long Service Award



Helene Goadsby – *Cricket*

Helene has served the Greater Hunter Cricket region with dedication and distinction since 1990, when her son began playing in Singleton. Over the past 30 years, Helene has taken on numerous roles including Secretary, Treasurer, Recorder and Carnival Convenor and continues to dedicate her time despite her sons no longer playing. Helene is one of the most respected volunteers in the game, and cricket in the Hunter region is far better for her tremendous leadership, service, direction and commitment.



Anthony Gorringer OAM – *Deaf Sports*

Anthony has been a long serving member of the Deaf Lawn Bowls community since 1979, playing a vital role at Deaf Bowls NSW, the Australian Deaf Lawn Bowls Association and the International Deaf Lawn Bowls Association. Anthony has held roles as an Administrator, Treasurer, Team Manager, Vice President and President over the years and continues to provide support and guidance for new players, in both mainstream and deaf competitions. Anthony also coordinates and runs events at the Orange City Bowling Club, providing annual opportunities for interstate competition.



Lesley Gough – *Basketball*

Les has voluntarily dedicated thousands of hours to Basketball since his first administrative role in 1963, however has gained the most recognition for his contribution as a referee. Les was inducted into the Basketball NSW Hall of Fame in 2011 and continues to dedicate his time mentoring and coaching junior referees. As a teacher, Les was also instrumental in establishing school competitions and coached a number of teams. Les is always willing to help people on their journey in the sport, without expecting anything in return.



Russell Grimson – *Karting*

Russell is a founding member of the Coffs Harbour Kart Racing Club and has been involved in Karting NSW since 1962. During this time, Russell has held a wide range of positions within the association including Club Secretary, Karting NSW Board member, State Junior Development Officer and National Publicity Officer. Russell continues to officiate at many club events and regularly attends meetings at both club and state level. Russell also established the Ladies Breast Cancer Fundraising Event, a wonderful initiative that was acknowledged by the Governor General.

Distinguished Long Service Award



Stephen Jennison – Archery

Stephen has been involved in Archery for over 40 years at Club, State, National and International levels. He has held positions in administration, coaching, directing and managing, whilst closely working with the National Association in delivering pathway opportunities for coaches and players. Currently the National Coaching Director, Stephen was the creator of the Archery Olympic Program at the AIS. Inducted into the Archery Australia Hall of Fame in 2014, Stephen has been a significant contributor to the future of Archery.



Ronda Kimble OAM – Netball

From 1980 to 1995, Ronda was a part of the Netball NSW Badging Panels, primarily testing for A Badges and was a State umpire at many National events. In 1991, she received her National AA Badge and in 2000, was awarded the Australian Sports medal. In 2008, Ronda received an Order of Australian Medal in recognition of her services to Netball. Serving as the Executive Director of Netball NSW between 1986 to 1989, her 'Guide for Club Umpires Convenors' became the basis for creation of the Netball NSW Guide.



Troy King – Blind Sports

Troy started in Blind Sports within NSW at age 13, playing for the Cumberland Blind Cricket Club. Over the last 32 years, Troy has achieved an astonishing career through his participation, administration, coaching and selector roles across both NSW and Australia for Blind Sports. His biggest achievements include being the Goalball Team Member in the Sydney 2000 Paralympics, Member of the Australian Blind Cricket Ashes Team that toured England in 2004 and Tournament Director of the National Cricket Inclusion Championships.



John Langfield – Motorcycling

John has been involved with the sport of Motorcycling for well over 25 years, working year after year to prepare first class race tracks that can be licensed and raced on by the Motorcycling community. John has a deep passion for the sport and this has been evident through his ongoing contributions to the preparation of tracks, but also through his involvement and dedication to officiating at recreational, club and state levels.

Distinguished Long Service Award



Peter Lozan OAM – *Swimming*

Peter first became involved with Swimming as a timekeeper and has since dedicated many years of service to the sport. Peter has served on club committees at both Padstow and Revesby Workers, as well as volunteering with the Western Suburbs District Association. Peter also served as a Director of Swimming NSW for 10 years, 4 of which he was President. He led Swimming NSW through significant governance change and has dedicated countless hours assisting and mentoring volunteers and paid staff at all levels to better the sport.



Stephen Lubke – *Football*

Steve has been involved with Narrabri Soccer Community for over 30 years as a player, coach, mentor and committee member. Steve has been instrumental in developing a strong competition in the area, and has been the driving force behind senior football development in the area – including pathway opportunities for players. Steve is also involved with junior football through coaching, refereeing and helping out with anything else needed, from field marking to cooking BBQs. Steve is highly passionate and well known for all his support and service to Football.



John Mossop – *Baseball*

John is the oldest active club member at Mayfield Boomerangs and has been dedicating his time for over 45 years. John has coached at all levels, from T-Ball to First grade and has been instrumental in the development of many players. John is the current club President and is recognised as one of the most knowledgeable and humble members of the Baseball community. In his role as President, John also engages with other sporting groups to put a focus on improving healthy activities in the wider community.



Jan Pike – *Riding for the Disabled*

Jan has been a member of Riding for the Disabled (RDA) NSW for over 38 years, accumulating significant achievements as both a competitor and administrator. Leading and initiating change, Jan has served on the Board of RDA for many years, including a number of representative roles. Jan also became a Guide Leader to provide assistance to young girls and women with a disability. Jan is extremely passionate and enjoys helping people with disabilities to get involved and enjoy the sport.



John Ryan – *Touch Football*

John has contributed to all levels of Touch Football over the past 35 years, including service as the President of Eastern Suburbs Touch Association since 1985. John acknowledged the need for young children to play sport and introduced a non-competitive competition to teach skills in a fun and safe environment. John has also prioritised female participation as a way to grow the sport and has seen the club competition grow from 4 teams in 1986 to 166 teams today.

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Young Official of the Year

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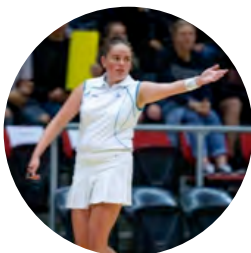
Summer Giddings – Athletics

Summer is an extremely active athlete and official in the Athletics world and has had a positive influence on many younger athletes. Summer is known for her diligence, calm nature and passion, which has seen her officiate at numerous state and national events including the 2019 and 2020 Athletics NSW and Athletics Australia summer season. Summer also mentors less experienced officials and is always encouraging her teammates to perform to the best of their abilities. Summer continues to strive for improvement in her officiating and applies feedback instantly.



Boston Stead – Baseball

Boston is an avid baseball player who obtained his level one accreditation in officiating at the earliest possible age of 14. Boston was mentored by the Senior Baseball NSW Umpires and has officiated at numerous major tournaments including the 2019 NSW State Championships U13 Gold Medal Match, 2019 Warriors Tournament for U12s and U11s, and the 2019 NSW Super Series. Boston is a wonderful leader and mentor who also dedicates time to help younger umpires at the club, providing tips on the rules, signals, game management and player and parent communications.



Zoe Turner – Netball

Zoe has been part of the Netball NSW Umpiring pathway for many years and has progressively worked her way up to the Tier 1 Umpiring Group, officiating the Premier League competition. Zoe was awarded her National A Umpire badge in June 2019, a wonderful achievement and reward for her ongoing commitment to the sport. Zoe umpired at the Australian Men's and Mixed National Netball Championships for the third time in 2019 and was named Most Improved Umpire. Zoe's professionalism and commitment to developing herself as an umpire highlights her passion for the sport.



Ryan Wake – Touch Football

Ryan's refereeing days began at his local club in Goulburn, before he started umpiring at numerous state events. In 2019, Ryan was ranked number one referee at the Junior State Cup Southern Conference and second overall across NSW junior referees. At the young age of 18, Ryan became the referee director at Goulburn Touch Football Association and has eagerly coached and mentored many young officials in this role. His successful 2019 campaign saw him officiate at the Junior Regionals, Vawdon Cup, Country Championships, Junior State Cup and Senior State Cup.

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Community Official of the Year

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Tamara Elbourn – *Goalball*

Tamara is a level 2 International Goalball Official who conducts all referee training in NSW and Australia. She has officiated at various state, national and international events including the International Blind Sporting Association World Games, Youth World Championships, Asia Pacific Regional Championships, and the NSW Goalball Championships. Tamara was the head official for the NSW Goalball 4 Schools program, which is now the largest Paralympic reverse inclusion model school sport program in Australia.



David Fuentes – *Judo*

David has been a part of the NSW Judo referee commission since 2005 and has been Chairman and Director for the last four years. He has officiated at all levels from local grassroots to the 2019 NSW State Titles and 2020 Sydney International. David has worked extensively on initiatives developing referee opportunities in rural towns and creating an accelerated path towards national refereeing which has produced two national standard referees under his leadership. An active mentor of many aspiring and developing officials, David continues to provide an exemplary service to Judo.



Kristy Robertson – *Hockey*

Kristy has consistently umpired at State and National Championships and is considered one of the best in Australia for Hockey. She was selected to represent Australia as an official at various international events including the Indoor Asia Cup in Thailand. Kristy plays an active role at her local club in Goulburn and at the Districts Hockey Association, officiating competitions of all levels and ages. In 2019, Kristy was awarded the Female Umpire of the Year Award by Hockey NSW for her exemplary performances throughout the year.



Murray Smith – *Swimming*

Murray has officiated at various swimming championships both nationally and internationally, including the 2019 World Para Swimming European Championships in Portugal. He also officiates regularly at his local club and district meets. Murray has shown tremendous leadership through his role as a Technical Swimming Coordinator which involves training and educating new officials and senior officials as they progress through their development pathway. Murray's welcoming nature has drawn in many young officials who have found their passion in refereeing.



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Young Coach of the Year



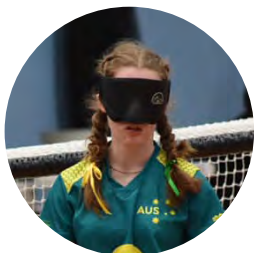
Amelia Cullen – Hockey

Amelia coaches multiple hockey teams at both club and association level, including Campbelltown City Hockey Club and the Metropolitan South West Hockey Association. In 2019, Amelia coached the U13s Girls Metropolitan South West Division 1 Teams to victory in both the Field and Indoor State Championships. This feat has not been achieved by many teams and is a testament to Amelia's commitment and knowledge of the sport. As an inclusive, positive and encouraging coach, Amelia highlights the role of a successful female coach and has a bright future ahead.



William Ji – Volleyball

William is only 21 years old and has already coached multiple Volleyball teams at school, State and National level. William led the U15 Indoor Boys Team to victories at both the State Cup Championship and Australian National Championships for Indoor Volleyball. His dedication to coaching sees his players continually improving their skills as well as building life-long skills like teamwork and sportsmanship. Through Williams coaching he also promotes leadership, safe and inclusive sporting environments and continues to provide support to entry level coaches following his path.



Amy Ridley – Blind Sports

At just 17 years of age, Amy has already had an incredible impact on many blind or low vision athletes. Amy coaches junior Goalball teams who compete at the monthly JTM Cup and has assisted in coaching state junior and youth teams at NSW Championships. Amy also coached her school team to a gold medal at the 2019 Goalball 4 Schools Knockout Cup and uses her playing experiences to assist athletes to perform at the best of their ability. Amy promotes a healthy culture which is safe and inclusive for all players and is a true leader and ambassador for the sport.



Kai Withers – Surf Life Saving

Kai is an U19 Surf Sports competitor and an active patrol member who volunteers his time patrolling the beach and supporting his peers and athletes in competition. Kai coaches several athletes at the North Cronulla Surf Life Saving Club, and has also coached a number of athletes with disabilities. Kai creates training plans suitable for each individual and helps to ensure every member feels a worthy part of the club. Kai is respectful, courteous and hardworking, with a wealth of knowledge and experience in Surf Sports.

Community Coach of the Year



Sporting Injuries



Vaughn Eather – Cycling

Vaughn is a coach at Dubbo Cycle Club and a coordinating coach of the Western Region Academy of Sport cycling program. In the last year, Vaughn coached cyclists who competed and succeeded at National Championship level and State Championship level down to local club competition. Vaughn was selected by Cycling NSW to be a coach of the NSW U15 and U17 track cycling team at the Junior Track National Championships in 2020. It is through Vaughn's guidance, expertise, and passion that these athletes have achieved outstanding success in Australian cycling.



Roger Jones – Volleyball

Roger, a level 3 accredited beach volleyball coach, has been Head Coach of the Junior Development Program at Northern Beaches Volleyball Association since May 2018. He coached the NSW U19s team that claimed 1st place at the U19s Australian Beach Volleyball Championships. Roger played a large part in the Junior Elite Beach Volleyball Program where 17 players were selected to be as an Australian or NSW representative. This is the largest achievement to date in Volleyball NSW history and highlights Rogers significant impact on participation growth and talent development.



Rob Katz – Judo

Rob has been the head coach and President of Budokan Judo Club since 1999, leading and mentoring coaches, volunteers, and athletes. Over the past year Rob has coached two 2016 Olympians and Australian Winning Edge (AWE) categorised athletes who competed in 19 international Judo Federation Tour Events. The results these athletes achieved represented 32% of NSW Gold and 19% of NSW's medal tally, surpassing the number of medals won by either the ACT, SA, NT, or Tasmania. Rob continues to drive elite behaviours in promoting and growing Judo.



Patricia Anne McAdam – Swimming

As the Head Coach of the Swimming Development Squad in the New England and North West region, Patricia has coached swimmers from various levels, many of whom carried on to win medals at regional and state events. At a community level, Patricia has instructed in a learn to swim environment and instigated an intensive swimming program for pre-school aged Indigenous children including the mentoring and training of new instructors. Demonstrating her leadership and drive for education, Patricia continues to bring her community together through swimming.



Jason Stubbs – Blind Sports

Since Jason began as Head Coach of the NSW Blind Cricket team in 2017, NSW have won Cricket Australia's National Cricket Inclusion Championship for three years in a row. Jason was recognised by Cricket Australia in early 2019, being invited to assist at the National Blind Squad training camp held at the BUPA National Cricket Centre in Brisbane. Jason consistently makes a great effort in treating each person as an individual and customises activities to ensure each player can strive to reach their full potential.

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With extensive involvement in the sports industry, we acknowledge the commitment, talent and dedication of all the individuals and organisations recognised at the 2020 NSW Community Sports Awards.



Contact

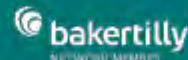
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The Voice of Sport



Joy Gillett OAM – Netball

Joy was elected President of the Penrith District Netball Association (PDNA) in 2015 and played a key role in the genesis of the Panthers Premier League Franchise. Under her leadership, PDNA has successfully established a strong sponsorship portfolio and established a renowned high-performance program. Joy is a highly skilled administrator and was awarded Order of Australia for her service to community. Joy assisted in the establishment of several new clubs which saw an incline in membership and participation in Netball. Under her leadership PDNA is frequently recognised as a preeminent sporting organisation.



Laura Ranger – Football

Over the years Laura's dedication to the Football Club has seen her fill many roles including general committee member, secretary and now President, while also playing and coaching within the sport. Her focus has been driven in implementing procedures to improve volunteer uptake and development, and strategic planning for the club to improve governance and ultimately create a welcoming club to all members of the community. Through developing the women's Kick-On program and juniors MiniRoos program, Laura has helped the club grow by 170% in player participation from 2015.



Aimee Sutton – Softball

Along with her many roles at the Castle Hill Softball Club including registrar and representative liaison officer, Aimee also manages the Cumberland Nepean Softball Association, the State Women's Representative Team and managed the CIS 2020 Girls Secondary Softball Team that won the All Schools Championships. She has assisted the club in strategy plans and financial initiatives that led to fundraising events, which in turn provided opportunities for members to undertake additional training (in coaching, refereeing, or scoring), qualifications and attend seminars/workshops.



Lisa Taylor – Judo

Lisa has been a Judo tournament Director since 2009, directing at the Sydney International, Judo Pacific Games, NSW State Teams and Australian National Judo Championships. She has assisted in promoting and educating spectators about the sport of Judo and assists in creating initiatives to engage clubs and members. Lisa mentors current members of the tournament committee in being able to run and co-ordinate tournaments and supports them throughout local competitions. Lisa continues to promote an inclusive environment by ensuring players and members adhere to the Judo Code of Conduct.

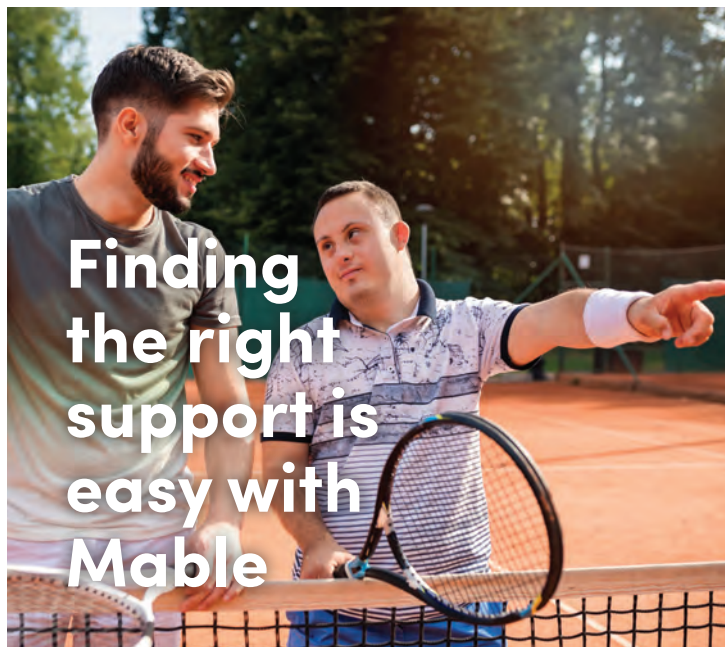
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Volunteer Director of the Year

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Mary Baker – *Tennis*

Mary is currently the President of Eastwood Thornleigh District Tennis Association (ETDTA) and has been a committee member at ETDTA since 2008, holding various positions over the years. In 2019, Mary was awarded Tennis NSW Volunteer of the Year Award in recognition for her contributions to the sport. Mary has been instrumental in fundraising, facility improvements and membership growth for the club and in 2019 secured a \$184,000 grant that saw new lighting installed, allowing older players who previously had difficulty seeing the ball to return to the sport. Mary is a dynamic and inspiring leader.



Gary Driscoll – *Surf Life Saving*

Gary has been involved with Lifesavers with Pride for 13 years, serving on the committee for 12 years, and as Chairman for the last five years. Gary continually strives to improve the culture, understanding and awareness of the LGBTQI+ community in Surf Life Saving, and has proudly created an advocacy group that is welcoming, progressive and inclusive. Gary orchestrated the Proud Beaches Initiative which has seen over 100 clubs engage and demonstrate LGBTQI+ inclusiveness. Gary's warm personality, clear visions and determination have made him an inspiring role model to everyone he engages with.



Ali Hudson – *Hockey*

Ali has had a significant impact on the direction and success of her local Hockey club over the past year, having re-invigorated the canteen and its offerings, revamped the club website, increased social media engagement and introduced professional corporate branding. Ali was instrumental in the foundation of the new mid-season Super 9's Super League and was solely responsible for monthly events that promoted not only the sport, but active off-field participation which improved the social inclusion within the Hockey Club. Ali's leadership continues to inspire others to volunteer and help make hockey such an enjoyable sport.



Bob Turner – *Paddle*

Bob has been the Paddle NSW Chairperson for the last three years, leading the recovery project for replacement event gear and a new trailer post the Australian Bushfires. Bob single-handedly ran the Myall Classic up at picturesque Tea Garden with an excess of 200 paddlers and raised thousands of dollars for Marine Rescue NSW and State Emergency Services. Regularly attending state meetings, being a delegate for numerous national committees and volunteering as a race manager for over 40 events a year, Bob's phenomenal and humble leadership has been positively felt within the Paddle community.

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Community Team of the Year



Eastern Suburbs Mixed Open – *Touch Football*

In 2019 the Eastern Suburbs Mixed Open Touch Team won gold at the State Championships and proceeded undefeated through several prior regional tournaments. Many players within the team have been selected to play for the Sydney Rebels, with 11 players being selected to represent Australia and New Zealand. Most of the team regularly supports the ongoing development of community coaches, coaching at community level and through self-lead initiatives and volunteering internationally.



Hills Hornets Division 1 Under 14 Boys – *Basketball*

Hills Hornets U14 Boys Team were crowned 2019 Australian National Club Champions having won various regional and state competitions. Awarded the 2019 Basketball NSW Association Team of the year, this was only the second U14 Australian title for the association and 7th for NSW. The team were frequently recognised for their outstanding sportsmanship, endeavour, and professionalism as they progressed through to the Championships resulting in amazing support and backing during the grand final from previous opponents.



Metropolitan South West Under 13 Girls – *Hockey*

The U13 Metropolitan South West Girls Hockey team won both the 2019 Division 1 Field and Indoor State Championships, an achievement never witnessed at the Association and a first in recent NSW Hockey history. Coached by young 17-year-old, Amelia Cullen, who promotes an inclusive and welcoming atmosphere, the team are well known for their respectful and supportive environment. With players coming from diverse cultural backgrounds, the team's philosophy of playing as one has led them to their great successes.



Newcastle Netball Association 2019 Opens – *Netball*

The Newcastle Netball Opens Team won many titles in 2019 including the Netball NSW Hunter Regional Championships and NSW State Opens. They were undefeated in the 2019 State Titles in June and were awarded the Pat Weston OAM Country Championships Trophy for their playing ability and sportsmanship. The team is composed of various player ages, but the culture of teaching, learning, encouragement, and enjoyment are the attributes upon which the team succeeds.

Community Club of the Year



Bulli Surf Life Saving Club – *Surf Life Saving*

The Bulli Surf Life Saving Club was crowned Illawarra's Club of the Year in 2019 and State Finalists in 2020. They held a very successful Summer of Surf Festival in November 2019, which hosted 4 major surf sports and received a compliment from Surf Life Saving NSW saying it was the 'best facilitated carnival by a work force'. The Club has always supported inclusivity and remains active in delivering programs that enable participants with special needs to participate. Such achievements have seen the clubs' membership increase by a staggering 29.25% in the last 3 seasons.



Hawkesbury City Little Athletics Centre – *Little Athletics*

The Hawkesbury City Little Athletics club and its committee pride themselves on the inclusiveness and diversity seen within their centre. Along with the clubs astonishing achievements including 1st place at the North West Multi Carnival in 2019 and 2nd place in 2020, taking out the trifecta of 1st, 2nd and 3rd place in 3 different age groups, the club also supported the Ronald McDonald House fundraiser, 'Show Your Stripes', which placed them 2nd in the most funds raised within their category in NSW.



Macksville Touch Association – *Touch Football*

In 8 years, Macksville Touch has grown from a small town club to one of the leading junior touch affiliates in NSW. In 2019 their Girls U18 team ranked 2nd in the 2019 State Cup, with 2 players being selected for the State Squad competing in the 2020 State of Origin. The association started the All Abilities Competition which ran from January to March 2020, providing the whole community an opportunity to play touch football. The event also led to some players being selected to compete at the 2020 National Touch League.



Thornleigh Baseball Club – *Baseball*

Thornleigh Baseball Club has seen tremendous achievements across all age divisions within their club and in various competitions on regional, state and national levels. They have hosted many 'come and try' charity events, including the Blue Day raising \$2,900 for Beyond Blue and Pink Day seeing 200 people in attendance and raising a phenomenal \$8,400 for cancer charities. Thornleigh have been awarded Club of the Year by the Ryde Baseball Association and are constantly encouraging volunteers and players from diverse backgrounds and abilities to participate in Baseball.

Community Event of the Year



Junior State Cup – *Touch Football*

The 2020 Junior State Cup had its second year in a split Northern and Southern Conference format, due to its significant growth and push to become more accessible in outer regional areas of NSW. The expansion drew over 7000 participants combined and had the events success published throughout NSW Touch Football channels, local newspapers, and local television broadcasts. The State Cups greatly assisted these towns in their recovery from recent bushfires and drought, with the two conferences projecting an economic impact of \$7million to nearby towns.



NSW Country Championships – *Tennis*

Contested since the 1920's and previously won by Australian professionals including Evonne Goolagong, the NSW Country Championships is a widely recognised event within Tennis NSW. The 2019 Championships saw over 800 participants and spectators attend from across the state, generating an estimated economic return of \$600,000 for the greater Forster region. Drawing in many national players, the event is also renowned for their community engagement. The event provides opportunities for coach education, US College development pathways and scholarships, along with meet and greets with Sam Groth.



Taree Summer Regatta – *Rowing*

The Taree Summer Regatta, organised by Manning River Rowing Club, is one of the most popular regattas on the Rowing NSW Calendar. Inundated by rowers all over NSW from varying ages and abilities, the event hosts over 1,000 visitors and competitors, and injects around \$500,000 back into the local economy. The event, with a range of participants from elite to beginner rowers, attracts significant media attention. Overall, 30 clubs and schools are represented with over 50 local volunteers dedicating their time to make such an incredible event happen.



Wheelchair Basketball Illawarra Festival – *Wheelchair Sports*

Over 150 wheelchair basketball players from across Australia and New Zealand participated in the multi-division Illawarra Festival in 2019. With a Masters event held in Kiama and Shellharbour hosting beginner and social competitions, the festival promoted a fun, safe and inclusive environment for all participants and supporters. The event received support from many local community members, the NSW Minister for Families, Communities and Disability Services The Hon. Gareth Ward MP and was publicised on local news radio and WIN TV Illawarra.

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Local Council of the Year



Blacktown City Council

Blacktown City Council have continued growing opportunities in their community through the development of the International Centre of Training Excellence, a \$100million project supporting elite international teams, local sportspeople, and public sporting access. The Council also collaborated with neighbouring councils to deliver the Great West Walk, providing 65kms of suburban paths to encourage active living. In 2019, they celebrated the 40-year anniversary of the Blacktown City Games which saw an attendance of 70,000 participants and they successfully hosted numerous other world-class events. Inclusion and diversity are also at the forefront for Blacktown Council, with a strong focus on increasing accessible infrastructure.



City of Parramatta Council

City of Parramatta Council have successfully reached out to their community through various platforms to promote local sport and active recreation opportunities. The Council is focused on delivering programs for all ages – from early childhood to seniors, and recently delivered over 200 hours of School Holiday Program to over 5,600 participants. The Active Parramatta Van program engaged over 11,300 people, targeting vulnerable populations such as women and disengaged youth while the Over 55's Leisure program saw over 12,300 participants. Adapting to COVID-19, Parramatta Council delivered over 20 online fitness programs, keeping the community healthy and connected.



Inner West Council

Inner West Council continue to demonstrate excellence in promoting active living for all community groups. The establishment of an Office of Sport has allowed the Council to work with volunteer organisations and increase participation in minority groups. A renewed Sports Grounds Allocations Policy prioritises ground hire for organisations that demonstrate access and equity, while a number of sporting centres have seen upgrades to make them more accessible and inclusive. Inner West successfully hosted numerous events including their Seniors Festival and provide ongoing programs to diverse community members such as new Mums, people with disabilities, women and refugees.



Port Macquarie Hastings Council

Port Macquarie Hastings Council (PMHC) has supported NSW Touch Football events for the last 32 years, including the recent 2019 NSW Touch State Cup & 2020 Junior State Cup, which saw a combined 470 teams and 7500 players participate. PMHC have continuously supported local sporting events, encouraging participation at both junior and senior levels as well as through regional school competitions. 2019 also saw PMHC create new wheelchair accessible amenities, street spaces and inclusive recreational venues. PMHC continue to work on programs for people with dementia and have a focus on creating job opportunities for people with a disability.



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