



Murrumbateman Little Athletics Club 2023 AGM

President Report – Lisa Tilyard

It is incredible to think the 2022/23 season was only our fourth season since the Club was formed. We have grown so quickly, and it felt like a lot of the hard work of the first few years really came together to have many aspects of the Club humming this season. I am pleased to use the President's Report to provide a summary of a very successful season, to recognise the hard work and achievements of our athletes, parents and dedicated committee and volunteer team.

Our season began with our first session on 26 October 2022. Due to unprecedented rain in the preceding months and subsequent damage to the oval during a community event earlier in October the Murrumbateman Recreation Grounds oval was unsafe and unsuitable to be used for our athletics events. The Executive Committee made the decision to proceed with the start of the season, albeit with a modified program of events utilising all other available and suitable space in the Recreation grounds precinct. A big thanks to our Head Coach Kane Fillingham for the time spent developing the modified program of events, which we continued to use for the first four weeks of the season.

The oval was repaired and dried out enough for mowing and line marking in time for Session #5. Thanks to our Grounds Manager Adam Karszniewicz for his work liaising with council and working to get our oval ready for use.

Our season then kicked up a gear and we powered through delivering a full and very successful little athletics season. In total we ran 15 weekly Wednesday evening sessions, with just one cancelled due to rain. This included a very fun and memorable Christmas themed session halfway through the season prior to our break over summer school holidays, and our traditional Kids v Coaches v Parents relay on the final session of the season in March.

We then concluded the season with our awards presentation and party where we celebrated everyone's efforts and successes over the season and were very lucky to have Olympian Jai Taurima as a special guest to present awards. Due to rain, we had a last-minute change of venue from the Rec Grounds to the new Murrumbateman School. Using the school hall and outdoor area was an incredible improvement on our previous awards events. We are very grateful to have been able to do so and we hope to continue this in the future.

During the season we have continued to maintain a strong focus on our aim to encourage and support all athletes to have fun, make friends and to achieve their own personal best. Our Club experienced another strong season with 159 registered athletes: an increase again on previous seasons. Our athletes not only achieved incredible results through our own weekly sessions, but many also went on to compete and achieve impressive results at school, zone and state competitions.



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Congratulations must also go to our major awards winners for this season: Club Champion Teuila Teofilo, Stormers Club Person of the Year Makayla Timm and Volunteer of the Year Tim Watt. Congratulations also to all the Merit Award, Age Manager Award, Most Improved and Sportsmanship Award recipients for this season.

This season our Head Coach Kane Fillingham put a focus on building our Coaching Team to build capability, skills and experience for our athletes, Age Managers and parent helpers. Our Club is very fortunate to have such an experienced and dedicated coaching team, who made a significant difference this season and I hope we will be able to encourage them all to continue with us next season. A big thank you to Sarah Watson, Mikayla Cruz, Brigid Edwards, Katrina Cuthbert, James Dugdell, Paul Watson and Craig Bretton for your time and efforts.

We were very lucky to have two special guest coaches join us this season. Race Walking Olympian Brendon Reading took our athletes through a session of basics and practice before a timed race-walking event. Then Olympic silver medallist Jai Taurima shared his knowledge, skills and experience with our athletes at the long jump. We are very grateful to both Brendon and Jai for volunteering their time to teach our athletes.

Our Tiny Tots program was hugely successful this season under the capable and experienced management of Kristin Butler, and following adjustments made from feedback from previous seasons. We had unprecedented registrations for this age group and thanks to wonderful Age Managers and active and engaged parents our Tinies had a fantastic season of little athletics.

Our Stormers athletes and families were representing our Club and community outside of athletics events again this season. We were pleased to have a good showing of children in their uniforms at the Yass Christmas parade in December, where a lot of local people got to see our team spirit and learn about our Club.

Also, in December the Club held a fundraising BBQ at Bunnings in Gungahlin. Big thanks to all the volunteers who helped on this day, with special mention for Jourdan Colvin and Kris Butler for their mammoth contributions. The Club raised just over \$2000 from this event which will go towards the purchase of new equipment in the future.

A very thanks to our Canteen Manager (and general Mr fix-it) Kris Butler for his contribution this season. Kris was the first person at training on Wednesdays and always the last to leave. He bought the snags and bread and picked up Bananas each week, ran the BBQ, had water and ice blocks, brought the speaker and helped set up our registration desk. Thanks also to the team of canteen helpers who either regularly or sometimes at late notice assisted with the running of our canteen.



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Our weekly BBQ made on average \$300 for the Club each week this season. The funds raised from the BBQ over the season covered the cost of our end of season awards event including medallions, trophies and gifts for our volunteers.

We were so lucky to have a wonderful group of sponsors and supporters for our 2022/23 season. Thank you to Coles for our weekly bananas, the CTO Group and Jasique Building and Earthworks, Murrumbateman Services Directory, Shaw winery, Murrumbateman Winery, Tallagandra Hill and Four Winds for donations to end of season prizes and gifts and to Murrumbateman School for allowing us to use their hall for our awards event. Thanks also goes to the team at ACT Little Athletics for their work and support of our team and Little Athletics in the region.

Finally, I would like to thank the 2022/23 Murrumbateman Little Athletics Executive Committee and General Committee, which includes Kane Fillingham, Katrina Cuthbert, Dominique Mumberson, Leah Karszniewicz, Jourdan Colvin, Kris Butler, Jason Mumberson, Emma Anderson, Rochelle Bretton, Kristin Butler, Adam Karszniewicz and Sarah Watson many of whom have taken on multiple roles to ensure the smooth running of the Club. Thank you for your dedication and invaluable contribution over the season. It makes the role of President so much more rewarding when working with such a committed team.

I would like to acknowledge the efforts and contribution of our fantastic Age Managers, volunteers and members that have given their time to assist in some way, thank you we could not run a successful season without you. Congratulations to all our Athletes for their participation, smiles and excellent performances.

It has been an honour to be the President of Murrumbateman Stormers Little Athletics Club for season 2022/23.

Lisa Tilyard

President – Murrumbateman Little Athletics Club 2022/2023