



# Murrumbateman Little Athletics Club 2024 AGM

## President Report – Lisa Tilyard

Dear Members and Guests,

I am pleased to present the President's Report for the 2023/24 season of Murrumbateman Little Athletics Club. The President's Report is a summary of the fifth season since the Club was formed, and an opportunity to recognise the hard work and achievements of our athletes, parents and dedicated committee and volunteer team.

### **\*\*1. Membership and Participation\*\***

This year, we saw a dip in registration numbers, with a total of 109 registered athletes, down 31% from last year. We believe this can be attributed in part to a reduction in the NSW Active Kids Vouchers making the out-of-pocket cost for registration more impactful for families. In addition, we saw several athletes who had been with the Club since our first season, either 'age out' or decide to try another sport or activity.

While our athlete numbers dipped, our volunteer numbers have grown this season. The increase in families getting involved is a testament to the hard work of our coaches, committee members, and the enthusiasm of our athletes and their families.

Our 2023/24 season was scheduled for 12 sessions, from 1 November through to 28 February. With one session cancelled due to wet weather, the Club delivered 11 training sessions over the season. The season was shorter than usual because of the Council work resurfacing the oval which began in March and meant we could not access the facility.

Our Tiny Tots program continued to be very popular with that grouping reaching registration capacity of 25 athletes well in advance of the start of our season, showing the value in continuing to deliver this program for our youngest Stormers athletes.

### **\*\*2. Achievements and Highlights\*\***

Our athletes have demonstrated remarkable talent and dedication throughout the season. We celebrated several notable achievements:

- In November 2023 Zoe Rushby travelled to Tasmania to compete at the School Sport Australia Track and Field National Championships. Zoe was selected for the U12 ACT track and field team and achieved incredible results of 12th in the high jump and 4th by the smallest of margins in the 4 x 100 relay. This was a fantastic opportunity for a young athlete, and we can't wait to see what the future brings!
- In March 2024, a small group of athletes competed at the Capital Athletics U9 to U13 Championships. Alan McCrae, Esther Payne, Zoe Rushby, Teuila Teofilo and Bridie Iglewski represented Murrumbateman at the event. Bridie and Zoe both achieved several impressive PBs. Teuila Teofilo had an outstanding weekend earning gold medals in four events: 100m, 200m, 400m and High jump.

The 2023/24 season saw some changes and additions to major infrastructure at the Murrumbateman Rec Grounds for the Club.

- The construction of a new amenities building at the Rec Grounds meant our long jump pit at the same site was demolished. After being without a long jump pit for most of the first half of the season, our

brand-new pit, funded by Yass Valley Council, finished construction and was open for use late-November. A competition quality long jump pit is a significant and welcome addition to the Club's training program.

- Our equipment storage had a big upgrade this year, with Yass Valley Council constructed storage sheds made available in May. All the Club athletics and other equipment has been relocated to the new sheds and our old shipping containers sold and moved.

### **\*\*3. Coaching and Development\*\***

Our coaching team has continued to provide high-quality training and support to our athletes. Head Coach Kane Fillingham continued a focus on building capability, skills and experience for our Coaches, 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.

The strength and conditioning sessions with Coach Sarah Watson continue to be very popular with athletes and is a fantastic drawcard as is not something usually offered at other little athletics clubs.

The Club was lucky to have a special guest coach mid-season, when Olympian Brendon Reading delivered a Race Walk skills session followed by a combined Race Walk for the whole Club.

### **\*\*4. Community Engagement and events\*\***

We continued to focus on 'Fun, Family and Fitness' by building community engagement through various initiatives and events:

- Our Christmas Themed session was lots of fun for athletes and parents alike with Christmas themed activities and with thanks to the Murrumbateman RFS for bringing Santa on the Fire Truck.
- The Club was represented at the Community Connect Event at Murrumbateman Public School in February where our team had the opportunity to promote the Club to families at the start of the school year.
- Our end of season awards presentation and party were a season highlight. An opportunity to celebrate the end of another successful season, the event was well attended with positive feedback provided by families. The event was an opportunity to congratulate all athletes for their efforts and achievements during the season, with the Stormers medallions and PB certificates being presented. The Club publicly thanked all volunteers before the major Club awards were awarded:
  - o The Stormers Club Person of the Year 2023/24 was awarded to Gabbie Iglewski
  - o The 2023/24 Murrumbateman Stormers Club Champion, a new addition to our major awards which goes to the Stormers highest performing athlete of the season was presented to Teuila Teofilo
- A highlight of our community engagement this season was the Club assisting in the delivery of the Murrumbateman School Athletics Carnival in June. Our team went to great lengths to prepare the Rec Grounds oval in the off-season, we loaned our equipment, and the Coaching Team helped the teachers and parents deliver the hugely successful carnival on the day.

We are grateful for the ongoing support from sponsors CTO Group and Jasique Building and Earthworks. We welcomed a new sponsorship agreement with Two Before Ten Murrumbateman who donated gift vouchers for our awards event and will have more contributions in our next season.

## **\*\*5. Looking Ahead\*\***

As we look towards the next season, I am excited at the opportunity for the Club to be moving into the next phase of maturity. With five seasons under our belt, the team have worked through many start-up challenges and are ready to focus on future goals. The next season of the club will have a focus goals including:

- Continuing and building our excellent coaching and development program
- Increasing our advertising and community engagement to build registration numbers
- Building on our sponsorship partnerships
- Purchase of new and replacement equipment
- Additions to our uniform offering
- Continuing to foster a supportive and engaging environment for all our athletes and families.

I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to our dedicated volunteer team, coaches, age managers and especially our athletes and their families for their unwavering support and commitment. Without you, none of our achievements would have been possible.

I would like to acknowledge the efforts and contribution in particular of the 2023/24 Murrumbateman Little Athletics Executive Committee, Kane Fillingham, Katrina Cuthbert, Dominique Mumberson, Leah Karszniewicz, Jourdan Colvin, Sarah Watson and Tim Watt 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.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to extend a special thanks on behalf of the Executive Committee and the whole Club to Kane Fillingham who is stepping down as Stormers Head Coach after five seasons. Kane's contribution to the Club both as Vice-President and as Head Coach has been significant. He has developed and delivered our training program, recruited an impressive coaching team, coordinates age managers each season and manages the set up and pack down of equipment each week. This is in addition to the skills, experience and positive attitude he has brought to our Executive Committee and many of the Clubs initiatives which has been invaluable in our start up years. He has done all of this for the love of the sport and our community, and with a smile and good humour. I am grateful for Kane's contribution and pleased to know he will be staying on with the Club in a coaching role for the time being.

The 2023/24 season will be my last as Club President. It has been a pleasure and an honour to be the Murrumbateman Little Athletics Club President for the past 2 seasons. I know that the leadership of the Club will land in capable hands, and I am excited to see new ideas and experience contribute to the Club continuing to grow.

Thank you for your attention and for being a part of our wonderful Murrumbateman Little Athletics community. I look forward to another fantastic year ahead.

Sincerely,

Lisa Tilyard

President, Murrumbateman Little Athletics Club