



## **Armidale Little Athletics**

### **President's Report 2018/2019 Season**

Firstly I would like to thank the ALA committee for creating the positive environment and framework for the 46<sup>th</sup> season of Little Athletics in Armidale. We made some major structural changes to our operational model that definitely increased the stress levels. With perseverance and some tweaking I believe that our attempt to increase the focus on athlete and parent development and education will in the long run will make the club stronger.

Though there has been a trend of fewer registrations across the sport our 20% reduction in registered athletes from last season is a concern and challenge for the new committee. A positive was a 15% increase in retention post the Christmas break on last season.

To strengthen athlete development, the retention of athletes, and positively impact on volunteer engagement and participation the "One Sport" platform must be more actively explored and a road map developed with the senior club.

This season saw a large percentage of the new athletes come from Martins Gully School, as it was targeted in our preseason school information sessions, the "Desire to Inspire" platform could be seen as a success and should be more actively pursued each year.

This year's committee has again been tireless in their commitment and drive to make each session and event positive experiences for its members. The extensive, time consuming behind the scene work undertaken specifically by Jodie Sauer and Jill Petrov cannot be underestimated, along with the other members Ross Burgess, Nathan Mace, Tim Vaughan, Kylie McDonagh, Karina Waite and Stacie Lancaster a stable platform was created that allowed each Thursday's sessions to run relatively smoothly, and for our excellent contribution to Zone, Regional, State and also our Gala Day. I congratulate and thank each of them and their families for their collective commitment. I thank Amanda Barton for coming on board and leading our Junior athlete program along with Jill. I also thank Marieta Burgess for her enthusiasm/drive on the social activities and canteen management.

I thank the parents who actively participated in making our Thursday sessions, Zone, Regional, State and Gala Day activities rewarding for our athletes.

Finally, I want to congratulate all of our Little Athletes for their efforts throughout the year. They can be proud of their performances this year and we hope to see them register for next season.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Graham Parsons', is located below the main body of text.

Graham Parsons