



## Armidale Little Athletics

### President's Report 2019/2020 Season

Firstly, I would like to thank the ALA committee for the enormous amount of work done again this season and for their drive and support for the OneSport framework. The major structural changes and OneSport drive has challenged everyone involved. I thank the newer committee members Dawn Stainton, Kate McCulloch, Angela Goodare, Mandy Newberry and Brad Sauer for coming on board this season and making the difference they have for the whole community.

It has been a privilege to be a part of the big family atmosphere lead by long term committee members and their families. Thanks to the Burgess', Vaughans', Maces', Petrovs and Sauers for many years. The enormous amount of work by Jill and Jodie this year and over many years has been amazing. Brad and Jodie's drive and contribution with the Harvey Norman sponsored BBQ's make them legends. I thank Coles, Armidale Regional Council, McDonalds, LANSW for their grants/sponsorships.

This year (47<sup>th</sup> season of Little Athletics) has been the most challenging in my time with the club. Nature has severely interrupted all aspects of the season. Zone championships were cancelled. The State Championships were also cancelled the day before competitions which was very frustrating for all involved and very disappointing for our athletes. Our end of year community presentation evening was also cancelled due to Covid-19 restrictions. Even though Jodie and Brad's effort with the virtual presentation was memorable.

I thank the senior athletic community for their commitment in delivering on the Development programs (for both athletes and volunteers). I thank Jay Stone for his leadership and expertise in developing and implementing the program. These resources must become tools for next seasons leaders.

The funds available from Armidale Regional Council to support coaching activities is an opportunity put in place an ongoing longer-term coaching development program.

Athletics is on the right path and needs to preserver with bringing the senior and junior athletic community together. This perseverance and the focus on longer-term planning will make the Armidale Athletic community much stronger.

Finally, I want to congratulate all our Little Athletes and their families for their efforts and tolerance throughout a most difficult year.

Graham Parsons

26<sup>th</sup> May 2020