



Armidale Little Athletics

President's Report 2016 / 2017 Season

Firstly I would like to thank last year's committee for creating the positive environment and framework for us to bring into the 44th season of Little Athletics in Armidale with 129 members.

This year's committee has been tireless in their commitment and drive to make each event a positive experience for its members. The extensive, time consuming behind the scene work undertaken specifically by Jodie and Natalie cannot be underestimated, along with the other members management each Thursday drives the consistency and stable platform that allowed each Thursday's sessions to run relatively smoothly. I congratulate and thank each committee member. I also thank Marieta Burgess for her contribution in managing the canteen and input from the canteen helpers along the way.

Positive parent participation is vital to ensuring our members enjoy the experience and want to come back. I specifically thank those parents who took on leadership roles as age managers every Thursday. There is the potential of a much better experience if our volunteer numbers were larger, a work in progress. Ideally having a specialist person overseeing each event each week as well as the age managers would enhance technique and skill development.

A focus has been increased cooperation between Armidale Athletics, Vipers and Little A's, to better meet the training and development needs of the aspiring athletes. Strengthening this platform is a key ingredient in ensuring participation numbers grow and members continue to improve their skills in which ever events that they undertake. A combined effort that resulted in excellent performances at Zone, Regional and State level.

Our financial position has been strengthened this year primarily due to reduced expenditure and tenacious investigation and work by Jodie in recouping overpayments in recent years.

From my exposure to Little Athletics in recent years there is an issue with fewer athletes returning to the track after the Christmas break. Exploring the reasons why and creating the atmosphere for higher numbers post the Christmas break needs to be a focus for future committees and the Athletic family as a whole.

Finally, I want to congratulate all of our Little Athletes for their efforts throughout the year. You should be proud of your performances this year and we hope to see you next year.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Graham Parsons', written in a cursive style.

Graham Parsons