

ESLAC President's Report 2020

Challenging would be the best description of our season. The challenges are best outlined by the fact that our Zone Championships were nearly cancelled due to bush fire smoke, our Regionals were disrupted by 45 degree plus temperatures and our State Titles cancelled with less than 24 hours' notice due to the approaching COVID 19 restrictions.

Despite these challenges, our ESLAC athletes, parents, carers and our volunteers managed to be a part of a very successful season. A big part of this success is the efforts of some key people including Robert, Danielle, Noreen, Paul, Amanda, Dan, Ilana, Allison and Adam. Without these key people we would have no chance of holding the events each week, so on behalf of the club thank you.

Thanks also go out to our Age Managers who do a fantastic job each week to get through the events. Taking a step back is easy but we really do appreciate those that take a step forward and help us to make the club function. Our Coaches Mal, Leo, Ben, Jemima and Sara have continued to develop the skills and performance which is evident with our 40 athletes that qualified for State.

Our finances are in a good state, our participation and numbers are strong and we manage to hold our events each week without too many issues.

The coming season will no doubt have some additional challenges. We seek your support for the upcoming season including recommending our club to all of your friends interested in developing their children's athletic skills. Finally I would like note my top 10 moments of the 2019/2020 season in no particular order

1. The smiles from the parents and tiny tots when they received their trophies on the dais at the end of the season
2. Our under 8 girls winning the 4*100m at State Relays. I have never seen the officials show discretion and not disqualify a team in similar circumstances but they did and the team went on with a bit more practice and support of their parents to win gold easily
3. The increase in our Senior Athlete numbers each Friday night
4. The performance of the athletes and parents at the Regionals with multiple delays, 45 degree heat and then torrential rain
5. Our State Multi Event Champion 8 year old gold medallist Marnie Laurence
6. The support I receive from so many parents and especially the committee
7. The awesome photos of our athletes by Cameron Ramsay
8. To achieve a record number of athletes qualifying for state titles including our Junior Boys relay team
9. To hear a young athlete on a Friday night proudly say " I didn't win but Robert told me I did a PB and that is what counts"
10. To see the improvement in technique and performance for those athletes that put the effort in with our club coaches and the other training squads

We look forward to seeing you in a few months for the 2020/2021 season.

Drew Richardson