



**Illawarra Blue Stars**

**Athletic Club Inc**

# **Annual General Meeting**

**Beaton Park Leisure Centre**

**Tuesday 30 May 2017**

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# **Illawarra Blue Stars Athletics Club**

## **President's Report**

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2017 marked the beginning of a new era for Athletics in NSW and as a result new beginnings for IBS. The introduction of the free membership for Dual Little A's Athletes as part of the "One Sport" Program initially caused some concern within the Club (myself included). However this has proven to be more beneficial than I could have expected. The injection of young athletes and their families into our Club has been a welcome one that I hope will continue into the coming seasons as more Dual members join our ranks. The ANSW vision is a positive step towards a much stronger sport and will hopefully encourage more kids to stay with athletics rather than being lured to other sports.

On the competition front we once again performed well across the board. Good performances at major competition such as the State Relays, State Championships and our brilliant 2<sup>nd</sup> place in the Hooper Cup at Country Championships really showed how a small club can mix it with the big ones when all members do their part. Congratulations to all of you for such a brilliant year of athletics! The support that our athletes are given by our families, Clubmates and friends at these events is also nothing short of amazing. As an athlete myself (albeit an average one) I can say that having a cheer squad while you are out there doing your best is a wonderful feeling and does inspire you to really give it your best.

Our weekly club meets had solid numbers which were bolstered by our new LANSW Duals. Trying to stay on time with so many younger athletes competing was a nice problem to have, and the support of their parents with running the events every week was nothing short of amazing. We could not have done it without your help and thank you all for your assistance week in week out. There were also many athletes and club members who gave their time when they were not competing themselves to set up equipment and help run the events when they were needed. Your help was very much appreciated!

The winter series was still plagued with disappointing numbers, however I can only encourage our track and field athletes to give cross country a bit of a go this winter season. We are returning to a more regular scheduling of club cross country events in an effort to ensure that more people are able to attend. Hopefully with these changes and the free entry into RunNSW events we can generate a bit more interest.

This year unfortunately saw the sudden loss of our great friend and Clubmate Janet Munro. Janet worked so hard for us and for ANSW as an official and she will be sadly missed. We also lost former junior club member Braeden Gibbons to a vehicle accident in the middle of 2016 and Guido Mogentale, father of Gianna and Nonno of Rebecca to sickness just recently. It was fantastic to see the IBS members who were able to attend those funerals giving their support to their families, and really highlights the tight knit community that our Club has.

IBS has some of the best officials around and are always there at every ANSW meet. We are extremely proud of this fact as there are many larger clubs who cannot say the same. To our IBS technical officials I thank you for all giving so much of your time and tireless dedication to athletics both for ANSW and Athletics Australia.

Finally I would like to thank my fellow committee members who were there with me throughout the year and worked so very hard to make this all happen, our club coaches who spend their time helping us all do our best and everyone who spent the weekend with me at Tri-The-Gong raising valuable funds for our Club. Your efforts have not gone unnoticed and I cannot express my appreciation enough.

**Geoff Hynoski**  
**President**

# **Illawarra Blue Stars Athletics Club**

## **Secretary's Report**

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It is with great pleasure that I present this Annual Report for the season 2016-2017 as secretary of IBS. In many ways it has been a very sad season with the death of our former members Braeden Gibbins and the death of our dearly devoted official, Janet Munro and former President of our club, Barry Keem. All three people played an important part as members of IBS, and it is with pride that the Committee has named the Official of the Year Award as the Janet Munro Official of the Year Award, whilst the family of young Braeden are delighted we have named the Encouragement to Continue: Male Track after Braeden. RIP.

### **New Challenges and Changes**

The introduction of Dual Registered Little A's members with a free entry into a senior club was accepted with both a positive and negative attitude by not only our club, but also many within NSW. Some clubs expressed their opinion on "their clubs losing money" without a club fee to be charged also, but our club took the positive side by believing we didn't have the money in the first place, but we were to gain a lot more members, who, in the long run would bring money into the club. This has been a very positive initiative and we are glad to say our membership has increased greatly (see Sue's registration report). But a lot more has to be done to encourage these members to take a more active part in IBS, and I hope that after our first season trial, we have learnt a lot and can do a lot more to ensure these members take advantage of what both IBS and NSW has to offer.

### **1. Off to Rio & Winter Track and Field Series**

It is great our club is able to offer competition to two young hopefuls for Rio for the para Games. Both competed at our winter track and field meets in May and June and both qualified with two or more B standards. It was a pleasure to have them both at the winter series. Great to see so many at the last round of winter series, including a lot of visitors and members of Albion Park Little A's, gave us an opportunity of spreading the message on Dual registration and with the help of Skye Vella and coach Rick Watkins, we are hoping that we have a number join our club. We did see a couple of people take advantage of the early registration and register at the winter series.

### **2. Cross country**

Cross Country has presented a challenge and I still believe that many people use the park runs, this taking away from our own conducted cross country meets. Good to see a couple of the Nowra athletes come up to the Minnamurra course, and we hope that in the 2017 winter series, outside athletes will enjoy the courses and relaxed atmosphere of our Sunday meets.

### **3. Masters accept Pre Departure Meet**

At the Masters AGM, our date of 9 October for Pre Departure Meet for Masters athletes was received by the Masters group and was distributed to all members as we moved further towards the summer. NSW drew up a draft program that included events for our members to compete against outside competition. I do not believe this meet attracted as many as we would have hoped but can be put down to a number of things including:

- a. Sydney athletes not wanting to travel.
- b. Lack of information through NSW.
- c. Trying to present the meet as a top flight meet rather than one to entice all athletes of all ability and age, in a more relaxed atmosphere.

#### **4. Winter Series**

Great to see so many at the last round of winter series, including a lot of visitors and members of Albion Park Little A's. It also gave us an opportunity of spreading the message on Dual registration and with the help of Skye Vella and coach Rick Watkins, we could see that this club would encourage their members to join our club. We did see a couple of people take advantage of the early registration and register at the winter series.

#### **5. Cross country**

Cross Country has presented a challenge and I still believe that many people use the park runs. Good to see a couple of the Nowra athletes come up to the Minnamurra course. Time to mark courses etc is an issue especially if we are going to have only a handful of people take part but our thanks to Geoff who will introduce a new format for the winter of 2017.

#### **6. Sponsorship**

Gary Kidd, Geoff Hynoski and myself ventured out to the Fraternity club to meet with the secretary manager of the club. Going in with an open mind, the meet was positive but not overly positive. He congratulated us on being fully prepared but he also advised us that we are up against the "round ball" in soccer. After much discussion and also some advice it was obvious that the club in general would not be able to sponsor us, but the manger advised that he will put our proposal to the board at the next board meeting on 20 September and he himself, will support an application that we put forward to the Club's Grants. For those who do not know, the club's grants are all clubs putting in money based on either income or membership - not sure which, community and sporting clubs then put their applications in. But he did emphasise that we have to come up with a proposal to meet the needs of a group of people who the community want to help. I suggested to him our masters' athletes program (remaining fit and healthy in older age brackets) and he stated that this met the criteria. Brushed aside the idea of an Italian team coming out here and we billeting them as he explained the people in the club and running the club are basically Australian of Italian background and really are not that interested in such a thing.

He was keen on sprint training for the soccer players, but again wants to see value for money. The overall consensus for money from the Fraternity Club is for them to support a proposal we put forward to go the club's grants committee, the manger stating that he will push the board to support. We designed a project for the committee to seek support but we did not gain the support that was hoped, again the club supporting soccer. Asked questions such as:

- a. Membership numbers
- b. Our exposure such as the Illawarra Track Classic
- c. Coverage of ages.

Finally gave him flyer that we use, he advised that he would give to the public relations people to come up with a form of advertising for us. When a notice board was suggested he just responded by saying we don't use notice boards but we may be able to do something on our digital advertising. We thanked him for his time and after a few weeks we made contact to see the outcome from the Board. A negative response due to the money they are spending on their own internal sport and the soccer program they are supporting.

We also submitted an application to IMB and also Colourbond but both grants were distributed to State overall applications.

At the time of this report, Ian Smith and myself are working on a proposal to Sydney Water in three tiers:

- a. To support with a community grant to purchase a new tent

- b. To work in conjunction with Wollongong Council to install water bubblers on the surrounds of Kerry McCann.
- c. To seek sponsorship of the Illawarra Track Challenge for 2017/2018.

### **ANSW Annual General Meeting**

Janet and John Munro attended the AGM of ANSW meeting as our delegates. Major points arising, board elected, mainly the same board, ANSW aiming to have "one sport with dual registration of little A's their first step. Negotiations will take place with Masters at a later date.

### **Illawarra Track Challenge**

- a. As we all know we had to change the name and I really don't believe this had any bearing on our event. Firstly, the numbers of entries were up and was the best we have had and in comparison to other meets, our Track Challenge for 2017 was one of the best attended by not only athletes but spectators alike. The evening was fantastic and the crowd was well and truly behind the athletes. Our people who prepared and came down on either Friday or Saturday were great and without them we cannot conduct such a carnival.
- b. Our thanks also go to Wollongong City Little A's for the use of their tents and some extra equipment and also for allowing us onto the track on the Friday evening when they were competing to erect tents etc. We thank them for this.
- c. Our athletes who helped out on various duties such as medal presentation and water people and also officials going out and helping the technical officials.
- d. To our own technical officials; a big thank you.
- e. It was an evening that was going to be the best we have had, but a little hiccup with Les Gillies taking ill on the track and being hospitalised, and I am pleased to report that Les spent some days in Wollongong hospital, but is now home and being treated and monitored.
- f. It does raise the question of having full equipment on the track in case of such an emergency and although the ambulance people were fantastic, we still have to be aware of what is required. I have spoken to Management on this and all equipment in future will be made available to us at larger meets such as The Challenge and Country.
- g. A world record was also broken on the night with James Turner breaking the 400m for his division in para sports and this has gone through to his controlling body for recognition.
- h. History making for Abbie Tadeo taking out her 3<sup>rd</sup> State title 60m, so well done to Abbie.

Cons: We possibly have to arrange a better way to present medals for our Masters championships. ANSW Were not too keen on presenting them on the track as it became time consuming but we do have in mind another way to do this that will not hold up the program in 2018.

### **Sponsorship**

I have been lucky to be able to call on former members who are great supporters of the club in the background, who came good, but we cannot rely on them all the time. We have to move forward now to secure a sponsorship for 2018 that is secure and tight. We will put in for a grant again to Council but this will only cover such areas as the ground hire.

Overall a great success and one that Athletics NSW are really proud of without saying too much to us, as they normally are known for.

The Mile that had to be postponed due to Les' illness was conducted in conjunction with the Masters State titles. There were a few who could not compete on this weekend but some new entries came on board.

### **Country titles**

We all held our breath when Dubbo was announced but it proved to be an outstanding success. I for one would bring home their grandstand facilities for our track as I feel they are amongst the best of any track. The heat was bad and the storm in the evening was also bad and we suffered the loss of our tent, but we all seemed to cope with the heat, but I feel it was the people of our club, who made this meet so enjoyable.

Junior athletes were supported by seniors and masters and all athletes came together under the tents that were provided. On all occasions the shout for members competing was fantastic. Our thanks go to Ian and Heidi Smith for the way they set up their van with water and drink for all our athletes. We can't thank you enough, and I do know Ian and Heidi are now working on extra for the athletes for the next country titles.

Our uniform looked superb with most of the athletes in the new uniform. Our officials out on the track were excellent and we thank members and supporters who went out and helped when Dubbo became short of officials.

During the titles a meeting was held to show country officials the way NSW is going to be moving forward over the next few years. Many things were discussed but the major concern was the distance some club members had to go to major meets and also the lack of support clubs like Cobar receives from NSW. They hope to help in this respect, but it will be a hard task.

### **Finally!**

Our great 2<sup>nd</sup> in the Hooper Trophy was a great result behind the larger, stronger Mingara club. This position was achieved by members taking on events they usually don't contest at a major meet but they used Country to come out in full force and not only achieve placings but to enjoy themselves at the same time. This is what the Country titles are all about, and we thank every athlete who took part and regardless of your placing, everyone was part of the winning team and formula - that is competing, having fun and mixing with other country people. A great result.

Our photographers who took some great shots that are displayed on our club's Facebook page. And also member photos that the new system allows athletes to view any photos taken of themselves by their bib number - what a great idea and many of our members have already been in and checked their action shots.

Accommodation was great and thanks were passed on by the managers of the resort who said they would have us back any day as cabins were left clean, our people caused no fuss and were not loud and noisy.

So where will Country be next season. It is official; you won't have to travel, home here in the Gong on the newly re-surfaced track.

Well done everyone on these two major meets.

### **Club Champs**

Well done to all those people who represented our club at the club champs. In February clubs will have a chance to voice their opinions on the first part of the season and the second half proposals and I think this is one event that, we as a club, will be putting forward. Notice that numbers were down a lot, and we believe this is due to a number of things:



- a. The event is supposed to bring members of clubs together and try and win the point score as a team. Our question is how we can do this with the bigger clubs having enough members to stack the event. Our answer is to have two divisions, larger and smaller clubs. This way more incentive for the clubs to take part.
- b. Timing of the year - very difficult a week before Christmas, this format should be done either a little earlier or a little later.

### **Christmas Party**

A good day with our skins, the handicap mile, the barbecue and drawing of the hamper and the arrival of Santa. Thanks to everyone who helped out, the men on the barbecue, Sue with the tickets along with Jodie, and Santa who arrived with his elf helper on a motor bike. A good day and enjoyed by all, and well done to the Sundstroms for winning 1<sup>st</sup> prize in the hamper. A great fund raiser and well done to Jodie for organising and also the club people who bought things in to allow us to have three lovely prizes.

### **Tri the Gong**

Once again we had the opportunity of helping out as officials at Tri the Gong. A great fund raiser, but I am sure more members can contribute to this event as all money raised is put back into the athletes. Thank you to all who helped and also had a great day. Many other events were on the same day this eliminating some of our members and we realise this and appreciate it, but let's give it all our support as it is money that we would have to find elsewhere.

### **Representative Honours**

Great to see so many of our athletes making their mark at National Level. Good to see Grace Adams bring home a bronze medal in the U16 hurdles and Jye Shumack clearing the magical 2m in the high jump. After successful State titles, the athletes proved they are among the best in the land in their respective events at National level, with Grace being named to attend the National Development Squad camp. (see all results of title events in the Results Section).

### **Stawell Gift**

What an honour for senior male sprinter Kyle Gubnic who took 3<sup>rd</sup> place in the major event in the Stawell Gift. He backed this up with a win in the 70m and was then named Sprinter of the Meet, a fabulous achievement for this talented IBS Sprinter. He has created history for himself and the club.

### **Masters Shine**

Once again our masters' athletes have shone in 2016-2017. They have contested more major events than most athletes with World Outdoor Championships in Perth, World Indoors in South Korea, Oceania, and the World Masters Games, plus their State titles. The masters will be heading to Darwin in early June for their final meet, the Australian titles for 2016-2017. (See results of Masters in results).

### **Uniform**

Our uniform is now looking great and we have added a track suit top, polo shirts and v-neck tops for members to purchase. Gianna will give a more detailed report on this but members must now purchase and wear the new uniform as the change over period has now been completed.

### **Finally**

My thanks go to the Committee for the great support given to me throughout the season. To Geoff who has taken on the role of President in a professional and dedicated manner, to Sue who has helped guide Geoff in the role if need be (but really didn't need this at all), to Gianna who has supported not only myself in her role as assistant secretary but the other portfolios she has taken on, to Jodie for compiling all our financial report each month, and to the Committee who have supported myself and the club throughout this season. My recommendation for us all to consider

for the Committee is that each member take on the role of a port folio so that the work load is distributed. To John Munro who has revamped some changes to the Constitution for the AGM to accept, in line with the recommendation of the Committee.

A big thank you to you all and to the athletes of the club, who not only performed well in 2016/2017, but have at all times, represented our club with pride and passion.

**Valmai Loomes**  
**Secretary**

**ILLAWARRA BLUE STARS ATHLETICS CLUB INC**

ABN: 80 299090816

**FINANCIAL REPORT**

AS AT 31ST MARCH 2017

Column1	CURRENT YEAR	PRIOR YEAR
ACCUMULATED FUNDS		
BALANCE AT BEGINNING OF YEAR	\$7,173.94	\$ 7,676.68
YTD OPERATING SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)	\$1,868.00	\$ 502.74
<b>TOTAL ACCUMULATED FUNDS</b>	<b>\$5,305.94</b>	<b>\$ 7,173.68</b>
<b>REPRESENTED BY:</b>		
<b>CURRENT ASSETS:</b>		
St George Cheque Account: 02829	\$5,589.98	\$ 7,858.94
St George Express Saver: 4290565	\$15.96	\$ 15.87
Less Unpresented Cheques	\$300.00	\$ 700.00
<b>TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS</b>	<b>\$5,305.94</b>	<b>\$ 7,173.94</b>

I report to the Board of Illawarra Blue Stars Athletics Club Inc that I as Treasurer have prepared these documents and they represent the financial position at the end of March 2017

Jodie Sundstrom  
Treasurer

Uniforms held in stock valued at \$801

# ILLAWARRA BLUE STARS ATHLETICS CLUB INC

ABN: 80 299090816

## INCOME EXPENDITURE STATEMENT FOR YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2017

Column1	CURRENT YEAR	PRIOR YEAR
<b>INCOME</b>		
REGISTRATIONS ANSW	\$3,590.00	\$2,990.00
CLUB FEES	\$1,643.95	\$1,574.30
UNIFORMS	\$2,368	\$1,466
ENTRY FEES	\$903	\$377
FUNDRAISING	\$1,015.30	\$854
INTEREST RECEIVED	\$7.14	\$16.22
TRI THE GONG VOLUNTEERS	\$775.00	\$1,850.00
NSW COUNTRY TITLES		
SPONSORSHIP	\$5,210.50	\$4,000
WINTER CROSS COUNTRY		
SCHOOL CARNIVALS	\$2,052	\$1,620
OTHER	\$200	\$10
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$17,764.89</b>	<b>\$14,757.52</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>		
REGISTRATIONS ANSW	\$4,470.00	\$2,615.00
AFFILIATION ANSW	\$713.93	\$713.93
FAIR TRADING	\$54.00	\$53.00
UNIFORMS	\$3,734.80	\$2,515.00
ENTRY FEES	\$844	\$690
OFFICIAL ASSISTANCE	\$450	
ATHLETES ASSISTANCE	\$160	\$80
PRESENTATION	\$1,543.47	\$1,308.50
ADMINISTRATION		
EQUIPMENT		\$509.37
STATE 60M & 1 MILE PRIZES	\$5,084	\$4,000
NSW COUNTRY TITLES ADMIN		
WINTER CROSS COUNTRY		
HALL HIRE/ GROUNDS	\$50	\$50
WEBSITE	\$49.32	\$794.46
AWARDS/GRANTS		
SCHOOL CARNIVALS	\$1,620	\$1,620
OTHER	\$909.37	\$311
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>\$19,632.89</b>	<b>\$15,260.26</b>
<b>OPERATING SURPLUS/ (DEFICIT)</b>	<b>-\$1,868.00</b>	<b>-\$502.74</b>

## **Illawarra Blue Stars Athletics Club**

### **Treasurer's Report**

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Although the financial statement shows a healthy balance at the end of the financial year, the report details a net loss of \$1,868.00, a downturn of \$1,867.74 over the previous year. This cannot be sustained.

Much of this can be attributed to the fall in club fees due to falling registrations but we as a club need to make up the shortfall by:

1. a much greater participation in fundraising events eg. Tri-the-Gong instead of it being left to the same members each year; or
2. reducing presentation, entry and award costs.

There is a need to have athletes make a much greater contribution towards State relays and Country relay costs. Support for athletes and officials cannot be sustained at the same level.

**Jodie Sundstrom**  
**Treasurer**

## **Illawarra Blue Stars Athletics Club**

### **Official's Report**

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I dedicate this report to a lady who I believe became one of the best officials our club has had, and that of course is Janet Munro. Janet spent tireless hours not only officiating for our club but officiating for ANSW and AA, but it was the hours that she spent in her own time of ensuring her skills were up to date on all aspects of her events. Like an athlete, she trained herself in her disciplines and ensured that she knew the rules to impart to the athletes. She carried out her duties in the true professionalism that Janet Munro knew. We will all miss Janet and her passing has left a huge gap, not only in our club, but ANSW and athletics in general. I cannot come to terms, as yet, that we will not be seeing her on the track on a Sunday afternoon, but knowing Janet, she would want us to move on, train more people and educate them in the pros and cons of becoming not only a committed official but a good one at the same time. RIP Janet Munro.

#### **Training and Education**

We do have to train more people and if elected to this role for the season 2017/2018 I would love to see an education program implemented within our club and train as many people as possible to become good officials. Not only the older people but young members who may like to take on this role as they move on with the sport. Let's implement this in this coming summer season.

#### **Technical officials**

As always, our club prides itself on supplying a number of technical officials for major ANSW events and to these people we say a big thank you. John and Janet Munro, Neville Fenn, Jodie Sundstrom, Ann Grimm and Sue Sundstrom (walks). They, at all times have been available to most events including State, National, Premier League, relays, etc. And on many occasions they then back up at a club meet on the Sunday. On some occasions they have spent continual days for three days officiating, and sometimes even more than 3 days.

#### **Club Officials**

An important part of any club, and to the members, are the people who have come forward each Sunday to conduct the program we offer to our athletes. My big thanks to Ian Smith who has assisted this year with placement of officials and also to Geoff Hynoski who has encouraged members to come out and give a helping hand. These people become good officials and it is these members who we will encourage to become technical officials. Great to see Little A's members coming forward and learning the rules of the IAAF, another added bonus to our club structure, and ensuring they, like the athletes are making the transition to "senior athletics".

It was with pride that our club, not only provided our technical officials for meets such as Country and our own Illawarra Challenge, but members going out on the field and helping out. Our young member Charlotte Smith received high praise for her help at the Masters' State Championships. Helping hands certainly make the task a lot easier.

Officials are not only the people who work on the track, officials too are our Committee who keep the club running, and to all I say, a big thank you.

### **School Carnivals**

These have once again been popular and our thanks go to Ann Grimm, who again has taken on the role of co-ordinator, along with Mary Thomas who has again been equipment officer for schools carnivals. These carnivals are a big “money spinner” for Council and we need to have them remain at the Kerry McCann Athletic Centre. We have also gained members from these carnivals and with both Ann and Mary offering their services as officials to some of the carnivals, has given the schools two knowledgeable officials on the ground.

I urge people to come forward and offer their services, especially at our club meets on a Sunday. Do not feel threatened that you don’t know a great deal. Our role is to ensure you will learn and enjoy at the same time. Geoff has recently put out a message to anyone who can offer their time on a Sunday morning for cross country, either holding a stop watch, recording or handy out place cards. All roles are important and you will be accepted and appreciated.

With the Country titles to be held in Wollongong for the 2017/2018 season our role will be to provide a number of people, both technically qualified and to help out. Let’s make sure we have the numbers to do so.

### **Finally**

I would like to finish this report the way I commenced it, by paying tribute to a friend, a Blue Stars’ official, and a great person in general, Janet Munro. It is with pride that the club has decided to rename the Official of the Year Award, the Janet Munro Official of the Year Award and we congratulate the 1<sup>st</sup> receiver of the re-named award. The award, we hope, reflects the values that Janet had towards our sport.

Our thanks go to all people who offered their time, their knowledge and their willingness to help out in any area so that our club’s program can be conducted in a smooth and professional manner. To our officials who have helped out in ANSW events, your contribution to the sport is valued by us all. Thank you to everyone.

**Valmai Loomes**

**Member for Officials with Ian Smith**

## **Illawarra Blue Stars Athletics Club**

### **Athletes' Representative's Report**

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Consistently Illawarra Blue Stars athletes have a great record in terms of performance and this season was no exception. Our junior, senior and Masters' athletes performed well at Country, State and National level. Some of our Masters athletes also performed well at International meets including the World Championships in Perth last October and the Indoor World Championships in South Korea in March. A special mention needs to go to Kyle Grubnic who placed third in the coveted Stawell Gift, something no other Illawarra Blue Stars athlete has done before.

Once again club meet attendances were down. Even with the introduction of dual membership for Little A's athletes our numbers have increased on paper however this has not been significantly reflected on the track. The drop off was particularly noticeable after the Country Championships.

We need to find innovative ways of trying to motivate our members to attend more regularly. A few athletes have mentioned why we don't have electronic timing like Athletics Wollongong have.

Our season was cut short by a few weeks due to the resurfacing of the track. Hopefully with the new blue track re-opening in June it will re-invigorate our athletes.

On a brighter note the attendance of our athletes at the first Country Championships to be held in Dubbo was outstanding. Looking at all the happy faces in the profile picture on our Facebook page is an encouraging reminder. Our second placing in the Hopper Cup was also a great result, only to be pipped for first place by the much larger Mingara Athletics Club.

ANSW events were sporadically attended by our athletes which is a shame as it is a great opportunity to race at different venues against extremely strong competition and record and electronic time.

The IBS winter series had low attendances however the courses were well received by those who did attend. The other events also had minimal involvement.

On behalf of Illawarra Blue Stars Athletes we would like to thank all of the Officials and everyone who helped out for their help and support.

R.I.P. Janet Munro. You will be sadly missed.

**Rina Flynn**  
**Athletes' Representative**



## **Illawarra Blue Stars Athletics Club**

### **Fundraising Report**

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Thanks to all who participated in all our fundraising activities during the 2016/2017 summer season.

A big thank you to all who braved the wet conditions on the Saturday to volunteer at Tri-the-Gong.

Presentation Raffle 2015/2016	\$116.30
Illawarra Club Challenge:	\$142.50
Christmas Raffle:	\$855.00
Tri-the-Gong:	\$775.00
<b>Fundraising Total</b>	<b>\$1,888.80</b>

**Jodie Sundstrom**  
**Board Member for Fundraising**

# **Illawarra Blue Stars Athletics Club**

## **Registrar's Report**

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**For year ending 31 March 2017**

**Members : 152 Athletes**

### **Breakdown of Members**

Open (includes Masters)	21 Athletes
Age concessions	4 Athletes
Junior	5 Athletes
Youth	3 Athletes
Family	3 Athletes
Club Athletes	5 Athletes
Club Associates	1 Athlete
Community	2 Athletes
Officials	6 Officials
Dual	102 Athletes

**Sue Sundstrom**  
**Registrar**

## **Illawarra Blue Stars Athletics Club**

### **Coaches Co-ordinator's Report**

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It is with pleasure that I present this report for the 2016/2017 season for IBS. Coaching is a gift that some have and some don't. Past athletes do not always make good coaches, but some do. To have the knowledge of the sport and the people who make the sport - the athletes, is the important ingredient. Some coaches choose to take a small squad; others become club coaches with larger squads. Regardless it is the coaches' decision on how they operate. Our club is fortunate that we have a mixture in this area, and have been lucky to welcome two coaches this season, both who have chosen to take on a smaller squad and not take on the club coaches role. But in saying this, they are coaching our athletes, and have been very supportive in what the club does, and this is what we want.

Our endeavours are to be able to cover all aspects of the sport but we are still trying to obtain a pole vault coach so this area of our sport can be developed into our club.

Recent talks will possibly see another two coaches come on board, one to help out in an outlying area and the other to take on some throwing events. We really hope this does develop beyond talks. Both are former athletes who have the ability to impart their knowledge.

We welcome Little A's Coaches, and this too has been a transition for many of them. As they are more united with AA and NSW it will be our role to ensure they develop into coaches through the channels that both parties provide.

As our club has many members who live outside the Wollongong area, it is probably fair to say that we need to develop these outlying areas with coaches in the athletes' local areas. We are lucky to have coaches in areas such as Kiama and Albion Park, and also Dapto, but it is areas such as the highlands that need to be addressed.

We hope that 2017/2018 will see some of our younger members seriously think of completing their exams to become coaches. Many in the club at the moment have the ability and knowledge and to encourage them along this path will ensure our club has coaches at all times.

It is also great to see a number of our older athletes offering advice to our new members and this is an area that needs to be encouraged at all times. We have to ensure that all members who join our club have opportunities to develop their skills by being advised of suitable coaches for their chosen events. In developing and to continue to develop our pool of coaches, this is possible, but we have to promote this as soon as a member joins up. Hopefully more detail of our coaches will be in the membership pack for season 2017/2018.

I thank my fellow coaches for the time and energy they put into the sport. It is a time consuming side of the sport but the satisfaction you get from seeing an athlete achieve either a PB or a placing in an event they choose, is a joy in itself.

Our role is to develop an athlete of any ability, talent and desire and to help them along the pathway of which they choose. But at the same time assist them to acknowledge how far they can go and at the same time enjoying the sport as they go.

**Valmai Loomes**  
**Coaches Co-ordinator**

# **Illawarra Blue Stars Athletics Club**

## **Publicity Report**

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Publicity is the key to not only gain, but also to retain members. Publicity is the key to information. It is the key to ensure that all members and intending members are given the right information, are kept informed and are at all times, given the acknowledgement that they deserve. Our sport is not one of the best as far as publicity is concerned. We all notice the press are grabbing for stories come Olympic Games or Commonwealth Games level, but at the grass root level it remains in the background. Our position, as a country club, has enabled us to impart the above through our column in the Advertiser and it is with pride that Kyle Grubnic's mum praised the article on Kyle's performance when the Mercury and local TV made no mention of his great performance in the Stawell Gift.

This column is very important to us as a club and to our sport in general, and we cannot thank the Editor of the Advertiser enough by retaining our fortnightly column.

### **Little A's**

We have endeavoured to impart the information to members of Little A's on Duel Registration and we believe we did this effectively, but it must continue. We must continue to ensure that these members know exactly what is happening and give them the choice of contesting any events under ANSW and ANSW.

### **Word of Mouth**

Word of mouth is so vital, and once again we have spread the word as much as possible. We have some wonderful PR people in our club, and spreading the word on not only our club, but the sport in general, is vital to the success of athletics.

### **Promotion of Events**

Our Illawarra Track Challenge is an event that not only brings athletes to our area but it also highlights what our club does for the sport. Many athletes have voiced their opinion on this meet as being one of the best and one that they will try and patronise each season. This form of publicity is what we need; we need to bring top line athletics and athletes to our area to open up chances of:

- a. Sponsorship for our own club - IBS.
- b. To highlight the facilities we have on offer to potential members.
- c. To ensure athletics maintains its focus within the Illawarra by offering a sport for all ages, both genders and all abilities and to encourage family participation.

### **Website and Facebook**

Both go hand in hand and offer a variety of promotion to different people. Many of our members, and in particular the young ones, like the area of Facebook, but it must be maintained in the best interests of the sport. Both Geoff Hynoski and Ian Smith have handled this well and have not allowed any negatives to be voiced through this outlet. If any athlete has an opinion to change something or correct something, they have the source of communicating with the Athletics Rep to ensure it is addressed by the committee. Facebook for our club is not for this reason, it is source provided to give information, to

acknowledge athletes performances and to ensure people are kept up to date. Geoff does believe we can open this up even further and make better use of this area.

Our website is the ideal forum for information. It is constantly being updated by Gianna and offers a great site for all things that are applicable to our club. We encourage more people to source this form of promotion of our club.

Weekly competition is always kept up to date and many visiting athletes have paid tribute to this source as they know exactly what is on each week so they can make arrangements to travel up or down, to contest their main events. The lay out and set up is ideal to read, and can be navigated easily. Thanks to Gianna for this great source.

### **Monthly Newsletters**

The club has decided on three editions, opening of summer, December/January edition, and Presentation and AGM and winter activities. These newsletters are sent out to all registered members by email but we ask that members read them and read them carefully. An email address for all members is encouraged on the club membership form.

### **Social Media**

Social media is not the only way to go, and we urge all members to ensure our club is promoted in the best possible manner. We ask you all to ensure potential members are given as much information as possible and to encourage new members to come and “have a go”. Promotion of our club is vital to the success of:

- a. Our own club of IBS.
- b. The sport in general.
- c. The development of our sport in the local area.
- d. Possibility of sponsorship that is so hard to come by.
- e. The growth of our sport in the Illawarra.

Any photographers in our club are also encouraged to forward photos on to Gianna so that she has a supply of photos to go with stories promoting our events and athletes. Whilst overseas, many of the masters’ athletes from the Australian team were amazed that our members’ results were so quickly transferred to our Facebook page, keeping our members up to date on progress. This too has happened for the Australian and State titles.

I thank everyone who has promoted our club and our sport, whether it be on the website with Gianna, a big thank you, and to Ian and Geoff for our Facebook page and to all our members who have promoted our sport and our club to any potential members, by word of mouth or by attending Little A’s meets, etc.

**Valmai Loomes**

**Promotion and Publicity**

## **Illawarra Blue Stars Athletics Club**

### **Competition Co-Ordinator's Report**

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As we have said in numerous reports before, our competition format that is provided for members each Sunday, is delivered to cater for all ages, all abilities, both male and female. I feel we achieve this, but a few little changes during 2016-2017 was most welcomed by all members.

In saying this we also need to encourage athletes from outside our club to take part and we thank the athletes who have travelled to our meets giving our own members that added competition.

We cannot please everyone but our club aims to provide a competition that is a friendly environment, but at the same time be conducted under the rules of which we are guided.

#### **Summer Competition**

We are still conducting our meets over a 4 week series, and this is possibly the best way to go, but maybe we need to ensure that the field events are the same for each division so that officials are not moving from one event to another. This is something that we possibly have to look at for next season.

#### **Hurdles**

Hurdles are still on the program but due to time constraints etc we are still asking members to enter the week before and ensure someone comes early to assist putting hurdles out. The steeplechase has become a very popular event and it is an area that we need to develop due to the popularity.

#### **Officials**

Like all clubs, officials are hard to come by, but this year we have seen a number of people come forward to offer a helping hand each Sunday. We are now seeing a number of people who are developing into very good officials.

Many members double up in events and we have no issue with this, but to score points athletes must compete in their own age bracket against their own competitors. Many will back up in events like the 60m to have:

- a. The extra run
- b. To gain more competition

We just ask that athletes when doubling up take the lanes allocated to "invitation athletes".

Overall the summer program was good, and we saw more members compete in this competition but once again we had some of our members compete in ANSW events on the weekend, with some doubling up on the Sunday.

#### **ANSW Meets**

These events we would love to host in the "Gong" but we need to have them promoted well by ANSW and ensure that they are not on with an event that is held at a track in close location. We were prepared to host an event but when we found that an event with similar events was being held at Campbelltown – this was not a good outcome for us when many Sydney athletes do not like to travel much at any time. The ideal solution to this would be for us to host, and for ANSW to give the North of Sydney a meet on the same time - not the south. Room for thought as we feel hosting an event like this deserves to see as many athletes as possible.

I have spoken on the Illawarra Track Challenge as Secretary but have to say it is one of the best events hosted.

**Beachies Versus Trackies**

This event was not conducted this year due to the “split” of many of the beach runners moving to other clubs and some even competing for other state clubs. We are hoping that this coming season we will see the event revamped or something similar as it was a well attended event the year before and was very popular.

**Winter Cross Country**

Still very hard to attract athletes to cross country. Feel that the Park runs have taken many athletes away from the more formalized cross country. Geoff will, and has done, a new program for 2017 and it is hoped that our members will take advantage of this winter event.

Our winter track and field meets are every fourth Sunday of the month and are still very popular and we hope that this will continue this coming winter. Ideal for athletes who are:

- a. Travelling overseas for major meets.
- b. School age athletes in preparation for school meets.
- c. And athletes who wish to see how their summer preparation is moving along.

Overall the competition we provide has been welcomed by our members, and along with trying to entice more members to come to Sunday afternoon meets, we should be aiming to:

- a. Ensure our events are popular to outside members to come to the Gong.
- b. That we can provide another major meet along with ANSW.
- c. That we continue to promote and develop the Illawarra Track Challenge.
- d. Ensure we support the Country Championships to be held in the Gong, with both athletes and officials and volunteers.

**Valmai Loomes**

**Competition Co-Ordinator**



## **Illawarra Blue Stars Athletics Club**

### **Website Report**

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The website for Illawarra Blue Stars is important to the club to keep all the athletes and supporters fully informed. I endeavour to keep it up to date with information supplied to me by the Secretary and President. It is important that all information that goes onto the website is concise and accurate, as people rely on the information that is compiled.

My thanks, once again goes to Susie Munro who has assisted me when required. I believe it is a website that “tells the story” to our club members and supporters, and I urge all members to take advantage of what is written. The website is a tool that is easy to access offering valuable information to ensure athletes are up to date on what the club has to offer.

The website can also be used for advertising and on all submissions we have offered advertising on our website for any sponsorship that may be forthcoming.

I again urge members to support us by sending photos to me as I am constantly on the lookout for photos of all athletes. It is the ideal way to “showcase” not only top performances but also the social side of our club and the friendship that it can offer to potential members. We have to remember this website is not only for our members of today, but it is the source of information for potential members of IBS.

With the club sending out only three to four newsletters per year, the website is the ideal way to source out any information that members may require. We are also linked to Athletics NSW and Athletics Australia. With social media taking over the way of communication, our website is very important to us as a club, and I thank everyone who has contributed over the season to ensure we have news and information that can assist our members and also enlighten new potential members on the value of joining IBS.

**Gianna Mogentale**  
**Website Co-ordinator**

## Illawarra Blue Stars Athletics Club

### Uniform Report

It is now compulsory for all members to purchase the new club uniform if they have not already done so. Our two season's changeover has now ended and no longer will our old uniform be accepted at major meets.

At each club meet I will have samples of the uniform available for athletes to try in order that they can correctly purchase their accurate size. It is imperative that athletes choose carefully when ordering their uniform as the club cannot sustain the cost if the size is wrongly ordered.

I also seek a deposit on all uniform orders and full payment must be paid before the item is received. Failure to lodge a deposit will mean the uniform cannot be ordered. Members are also asked to order early in the season and not leave it to the last minute so that they have the correct uniform in time for all major meets.

The club uniform looks great and with the recent addition of the women's crop top, the uniform is now complete. We have also added V-neck shirts, polo shirts and track suit tops that can be purchased and it is hoped that in the coming season we will be able to offer full tracksuits.

The stock on hand that the club has is set out below.

#### Stock on Hand

DESCRIPTION	Total Quantity Purchased	Total Quantity Sold	Total Quantity on Hand	Samples on Hand
Women's Singlet	31	22	9	5
Women's Hipsters	24	14	10	3
Crop Tops	27	14	13	0
Men's Singlet	34	24	10	4
Men's Shorts	25	15	10	5
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>141</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>17</b>

We still have some old stock available that athletes can purchase at a very low cost of \$10.00 which can be used for training purposes. Below is a table showing the items available for purchasing.

## Old Stock Uniforms

DESCRIPTION	Sizes Available	Total Quantity on Hand
Women's Singlet	Size 8 x 2	2
Women's Crop Top	Size 14 x 2 Jnr 10 x 3 Jnr 12 x 1	6
Women's Hipsters	Jnr 10 x1 Jnr 12 x 2	3
Men's Singlet	Size M Jnr14 x 2	3
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>14</b>

**Gianna Mogentale**  
Uniform Officer

## **Illawarra Blue Stars Athletics Club**

### **Beaton Park Management Report**

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The voice of the people ?????. This Management team gives us just that, but this season it has been a little disappointing to see a number of the other clubs, not in attendance at many of the meetings. The team is set up to:

- a. Discuss any issues we may have as clubs in regards to the track.
- b. To offer suggestions to Beaton Park Management so they can either reject or implement.
- c. To encourage Beaton Park to put forward to Council the need to be supported by either Council in general or for grants to State and Federal for development of our facility.

The meetings are to determine the above, but on many occasions our club along with one other are the only ones in attendance.

My thanks goes to Geoff for his input which has been invaluable to the Manager but is sad to say that Tony, the Beaton Park manager has moved onto the University. At the time of the report, we have an acting manager, but believe the role will be advertised. We are hoping that whoever comes into the role has knowledge of track and field or is prepared to learn, as our sport and the facility plays an important role in the complex.

Many have noticed that the centre has also been revamped and now looks very good. Clean and tidy and more open to customers, the hall way has now been developed even further with photos of our Olympians now shown off to the general public. Great to see that Robyn Woodhouse-Sillitoe has been added to the “showcase”.

Management have worked well with us and the suggestion of new equipment space has been the Agenda item for some time. Plans have been submitted but once again, it is a Council decision.

**We now see a wonderful new blue track.** This has come about by this team working in with Management. Nearly completed we are led to believe we will be back on the track in early June. Drainage has also been improved on the shot circles, which will be welcomed by both officials and members.

**Hurdles and Blocks.** Our responsibility as a club is to maintain the hurdles and blocks and our thanks go to both Geoff and Ian who have done a great job in this respect. A full report goes to Management from both men, so that replacements can be made through Council budget allocation. On many occasions the men have been able to correct and replace these themselves. Our club did receive acknowledgement that we are the only club who submits a report to Council. Failure to do such by other clubs may see that their designated equipment may go unattended by Council. Areas such as the Steeplechase has gone unattended for many months, but Management have re-enforced the responsibility of all clubs to ensure their allocated equipment is fixed and maintained. The clubs who have been delegated are:

- a. IBS - hurdles and starting blocks.
- b. Athletics Wollongong - high jump and pole vaults.
- c. Kembla Joggers – Steeplechase.
- d. Wollongong City Little A's - high jumps.

Our club feels this is an area that all parties have to undertake and not just think Council will look after. If money and time is spent on the above, then other areas of major concern will be affected and larger items that need attention will be gained. It is little to ask of all clubs to maintain the areas mentioned above.

The Council does not have money or time to just spend on the track and many have to realise this. Although it is a showcase of Wollongong Council, we as tenants of this facility, have to ensure we maintain a great working relationship with both Beaton Park Management and Council in general. If we don't, money could be transferred to other sites or sporting venues.

My thanks goes to Geoff for accompanying me to the meetings and having valuable input to management. Let's make sure our voice is heard and heard in the right manner - over discussion over a table with others also having input. Complaining after decisions have been made is ineffective, especially if some clubs do not attend.










**Valmai Loomes and Geoff Hynoski**  
**Beaton Park Management Representative**

## Blue Stars Athletics Club

### Club Management 2016-2017 Season

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#### Executive and Management Committee

	<b>President</b>  <b>Geoff Hynoski</b>  <b>Other Duties:</b> Club Equipment		<b>Vice President</b>  <b>Sue Sundstrom</b>  <b>Other Duties:</b> Registrar
	<b>Secretary</b>  <b>Valmai Loomes</b>  <b>Other Duties:</b> Public Relations & Competition Co-ordinator		<b>Treasurer</b>  <b>Jodie Sundstrom</b>  <b>Other Duties:</b> Fund Raising
	<b>Board Member &amp; Assistant Secretary</b>  <b>Gianna Mogentale</b>		<b>Board Member &amp; Equipment Officer</b>  <b>Sue Sundstrom</b>
	<b>Board Member &amp; Social Activities Co-ordinator</b> <b>Lynda Douglass</b>		<b>Board Member</b>  <b>Kevin Lee</b>
	<b>Board Member &amp; Athletes Rep</b>  <b>Rina Flynn</b>		