

PRESS RELEASE

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TO: Media Contacts



2017 Sportsperson of the Year Awards

2017 SPORTSPERSON OF THE YEAR AWARDS NOMINEES

The Shire of Collie will be holding the 2017 Sport Awards Presentation Evening on Friday 24 November. The annual awards aim to highlight the sporting achievements of the Collie community. The Shire is pleased to have State Women's footballer, Philipa Seth, as the guest speaker for the evening. Philipa has represented the state in both women's football and rugby, as well as holding the Vice-Captain position for the Under 23s Women's State football team.

A total of 15 nominations were received for the Sport Awards covering the following awards:

- Five JL Mumme Sports Person of the Year nominations;
- Six Young Sports Person of the Year nominations;
- Three Special Achievement nominations; and
- One Robinson-Hannan Volunteer of the Year nomination.

Biography of each nominee:

Special Achievement

Annabelle Biffin

Underwater Hockey

In January 2017, Annabelle travelled to Brisbane to umpire at the National Underwater Hockey State Championships. Annabelle held the position of Junior Co-ordinator on the WA State Underwater Hockey Committee, and organised and co-ordinated a junior development day, that was attended by over 50 junior Underwater Hockey players from Collie, Bunbury, Margaret River, Busselton and Perth. Annabelle has just been named as coach of the WA State Underwater Hockey U15 development team, that will compete at the National Underwater Hockey Championships in Perth in January 2018. Annabelle also umpired at the SMAS 4th World Age Group Underwater Hockey Championships in Hobart in July this year. During her time there, she qualified as a Level Three Referee, which will allow her to officiate at World and National Underwater Hockey competitions and to train and assess new referees.

Collie junior Cricket Club Year 10 team

Cricket

Since the 2012/13 season as year 7s, the junior cricket players of the 2016/17 Collie Junior Cricket Club (CJCC) year 10 team have played in 5 grand finals, and in 2016/17 won a 4th Bunbury & Districts Cricket Association Premiership in a row. The 2016/17 cricket season saw the CJCC year 10 team start the season with 9 players before asking juniors from the CJCC year 8 side to play, to make up the numbers to field a full side. The year 10

team finished the season 2nd, with 6 wins and 1 draw from their 14-round campaign, which included 3 fixture byes. The grand final saw the CJCC year 10 Team post a score of 209 for the loss of just 5 wickets from their 50 overs. The team performed well, taking wickets and restricting runs throughout their bowling innings. The match came down to the final over with Dalyellup requiring 4 runs from the final over and Collie requiring 1 wicket. Collie claimed the victory, with two deliveries left to bowl.

J7/8 Girls Hockey team

Hockey

The team played in the Bunbury Carnival where they finished 3rd- missing out by playing in the grand final by just 1 point. During the Club Championships in Perth the team never lost a game and won the Grand Final to be crowned club champions for Division 2. The team played in the Narrogin Carnival and won the competition. They were named as the Narrogin Carnival Champions. Teams from across WA competed in all the carnivals mentioned.

Junior Sportsperson of the Year

Emily Antonovich

Hockey

Emily competed in the local Collie Hockey Intermediates and A-grade competitions for Mustangs Hockey Club. The 16-year-old was awarded Mustangs Intermediate Fairest and Best and highest goal scorer and A Grade Fairest and Best. She was Collie Women's Hockey Association (CWA) Intermediate Fairest and Best, Highest Goal Scorer and best in the Grand Final. Emily was awarded the CWA Vernon Perpetual Trophy, which is awarded to the junior with the most combined fairest and best votes in A Grade and Intermediates. Emily was a member of the Collie South West League Hockey Team which won the grand final, where she was awarded Fairest and Best for the game. She was also a member of the South West Strikers Hockey Team, which competed in Perth where Emily was awarded fairest and best for the team. Emily is a South West Academy of Sports scholarship holder, and was awarded MVP for Manea Country Week Hockey team which won their division. She has also been selected as part of the WA Under 16 State School Girls Hockey team, who will compete in the Pacific School Games in Adelaide in December.

Jake Avins

Speedway

Jake was crowned the overall season champion for Collie Speedway junior and senior divisions, and was also awarded fairest and best for both divisions.

Jake received the highest seasonal points for junior sedans and was crowned winner of the Collie Speedway Junior Championships. The 17-year-old was winner of the Curley Fishlock Memorial across all classes, and won both the Terry Termite one lap dash and the Colin Spicer Outstanding Sportsmanship Award.

On a state level, Jake Avins is the Junior Sedan Racing Association of Western Australia (JSRA) Grand Champion, as well as the JSRA Country Series Champion, Fairest and Best, Driver's Driver, and 5 feature round wins. Jake was the winner of the Four Round South West Championships. Winner of the FAB Martinelli Cup (Pithara) and WA State Title (Bunbury) – qualified 2nd and finished 5th out of 61 competitors. Jake competed in the Australian Junior Sedan Titles in Mount Gambier, South Australia, where he qualified 4th and finished 8th out of 83 competitors. Jake competed in the Victorian State Title Race where he finished 10th out of 53 competitors. Jake Avins is currently ranked 2nd on the Australian National Feature Race Leader Board, which includes all divisions for both juniors and seniors.

Maggie Biffin

Underwater Hockey

Maggie won the Collie Underwater Hockey Shane and Sue Digney Perpetual Trophy for Fairest and Best Junior in the Senior competition, and won Fairest and Best Junior female for Collie Underwater Hockey.

In March 2017, Maggie won Upper School Champion at the Collie Senior High School Inter-house Swimming Carnival. Maggie placed 2nd for Upper School Girls in the Collie Senior High School Cross Country.

Maggie was selected as Vice-Captain for the Inaugural WA State Underwater Hockey U19 Women's Team, where they completed the round robin for the competition undefeated, without having a goal scored against them, and won gold in the Grand Final.

Maggie also helped with umpiring duties at the National Underwater Hockey Championships as well as playing. In May 2017 Maggie was equal Runner-up Upper School Champion Girl at the South West Interschool Athletics Carnival. The 18-year-old was selected as Vice-Captain for the Australian Underwater Hockey U19 Women's Team, they competed at the CMAS 4th World Age Group Underwater Hockey Competition in Hobart in July. Playing against teams from South Africa, Canada, USA, Colombia, New Zealand and Great Britain. The team won Silver, defeating the former World Champions, South Africa, to get into the grand final against New Zealand, ranking the team 2nd in the world for U19 Women's Underwater Hockey.

Laura Crowe

Swimming, hockey, dance

Laura represented Collie Swimming Club at 6 swim meets, which included the Indian All-Star Challenge which Laura qualified for representing team Aussie, and won; 7 gold medals, 3 silver medals, and 5 bronze medals. Laura won the club championship for the 14 and under age group and received the Maurice Dhu Encouragement Award.

Laura represented the Collie Basketball Association at the regional carnival and the State Championships in Perth, where she won runner-up Fairest and Best for the 14 and under division.

Laura represented the Lyn Hansen School of Dance at the Bunbury Eisteddfod, dancing in 2 solos. She also danced in the Festiv Arty Performing Arts Competition, winning a gold medal in her group dance and a silver medal in her solo.

Laura won Champion girl for her school swimming carnival, and represented the Collie Hockey Association in the year 7/8 age group at the Bunbury carnival, club championships in Perth and the Narrogin Carnival. Laura spent 8 months travelling to Perth to attend training sessions and trials for her state hockey team with around 200 girls trying out, and was lucky enough to be chosen to represent her state in the U13 team, which competed in Perth at the National Championships. Her team was very successful, placing 4th out of 12 years. The 13-year-old was also awarded her coaches' MVP award for her team.

Payton Marley

Hockey, tennis, athletics

Payton competed in the Collie Women's Hockey Association C Grade and intermediates competitions, and was awarded CWAHA C Grade Fairest and Best and highest goal scorer and MVP for Sapphires C Grade team. She was also awarded Rovers Hockey Club's Runner-up Fairest and Best. Payton also competed in the local Collie Men's Hockey Primary A competition where she won fairest and best.

For Collie Senior High School Payton won her age group cross country and then went on to represent her school at the interschool carnival where she came runner-up.

Payton was also runner-up Champion Girl for her athletics carnival, and represented CSHS at the Interschool swimming and athletics carnival.

Payton is a member of the Collie Lawn Tennis Club where she was crowned U12 and U14 Champion and U16 Runner up Champion. The 12-year-old has represented Collie Basketball Association at the Regional carnival and Country Championship. She was awarded All Star at the Perth competition where her team came 2nd.

Payton also represented CWSA at the Bunbury Carnival, Club Championship and Narrogin Carnival. Her team was very successful, taking out top spot in both competitions.

She was a member of the U13 Hockey Pathways Program where she travelled to Perth for training sessions with girls from all over the state.

Grace Sheppard

Hockey

Grace represented the Collie Hockey Association in the year 9/10 age group at the Bunbury carnival and club championships in Perth. Her team came 2nd at the Club Championships. Grace travelled to Perth to attend training sessions and trials for her state hockey team with around 200 girls trying out. The 15-year-old was chosen to represent WA for the U15 Black Team, and is a South West Academy of Sport scholarship holder. Grace won her school cross country and was runner up in the Interschool cross country. She was also runner-up Champion girl for CSHS athletics carnival.

JL Mumme Medal – Sportsperson of the Year

Grant Campbell

Wood chopping and Greyhound racing

Grant has competed at Regional, State and National levels. In September 2016 he won Axeman of the Show at the IGA Perth Royal Show, and in November 2016 Grant won the John (Jum) Widdleson Trophy for the most points accumulated on the log chopping events at the Dinninup Show. In May this year, Grant was awarded the Axeman of the Year for the WA Axemen's League, for the Harvey through to Albany region. In September this year, Grant came 1st in the 275mm Underhand Chop, 3rd in the 300mm Underhand Chop, and 4th in the 325mm Single Handed Sawing at the IGA Perth Royal Show.

Grant was awarded the 2017 Axeman of the Year for the WA Axemen's Council which incorporates all 3 Axemen's Leagues in WA (South West League and rest of the state). To win Axeman of the Year you must accrue sufficient points throughout the whole season- Grant competed in 26 log chop finals and accrued enough points to win Axeman of the Year.

Grant also competed in the 2016 and 2017 Adelaide Royal Show and competed in a total of 13 final Wood-chopping events. He won the 275mm Standing Block Event, came 2nd in the 300mm and 255mm Underhand Event and came 3rd in the 275mm Standing Block Event.

Grant is an owner/trainer of greyhound dogs and during the year he has had 96 competition starts at Cannington, Mandurah, and Northam race tracks which resulted in placings of; 26 wins, 17 second places and 13 third places.

Travis Cleggett

Australian Rules Football

Travis was the Collie Eagles first winner of the Hayward Medal- SWFL best and fairest player for the 2017 season. He is the first local winner of the award since Aaron Marley won for the Mines Rovers in 1997. He also won the SWFL rising star award, becoming the first ever player to win both the Hayward and the rising star in the first season. Travis recently finished 2nd in the Collie Eagles fairest and best award behind Kyle Shanahan.

Ethan Genev

Speedway

Ethan was the Street Stock highest points scorer for the 2016/2017 season, and runner-up on club points. Ethan was equal winner of the Collie Christmas Cup. He competed in the State Title at the Ellenbrook Speedway, where he placed 3rd out of 62, and was the winner of the Manjimup Stampede for the 2016/2017 season. He was the back to back winner of the Margaret River South West Street Stock Showdown for the 2015/2016 season. Ethan won back to back Chief Stewart Award the Margaret River Speedway for the 2015/2016 and 2016/2017 seasons. He placed 2nd for the South West Sedan Championship for Street Stock, which is run over four different speedways- Bunbury, Collie, Manjimup, and Margaret River for the 2016/2017 season. Ethan placed 4th for the Stocktober Kalgoorlie International Speedway.

Gary Keep

Lawn bowls and darts

Gary had a very successful year at the Collie Lawn Bowls Club. He was involved in winning the club triples for the second year running. Gary was the winner of the Blue Ribbon Event The Kinsella Memorial Singles (he has won this event on 6 occasions). Gary also held a position of skipper in Red Division (top division) for the Collie Pennant Team. Gary was the singles representative at the South West League Event which involves all of the towns within the South West Bowling League. Gary went through the competition winning all his games and was crowned the South West Singles Champion (this is the second time he has won this event). Gary was also selected in the Southwest League team for the Inter-league event, and had a very successful year in the Men's Darts competition. For the 2017 season, he was the winner of the open singles event, he also won the Men's doubles competition. Gary topped the men's averages for the year, with 73.05 average from 22 games, and had the most pegs for the season with 55 pegs. Gary was selected to represent Collie in the Southwest Darts Championships.

Mark Williams

Cricket

Mark Williams has been part of the Collie Cricket Club for many years. As part of the Collie Cricket Club 2016/2017 2nd Grade Premiership Team, Mark played all 15 of the regular season fixtures.

Mark's efforts for the 2016/17 season earned him the honour of being voted the Bunbury & Districts Cricket Association 2nd Grade Cricketer of the Year. Mark also was awarded the BDCA 2nd Grade Most Wickets Bowling Award with 28 wickets for the season, in which his bowling average of 10.39 runs per wicket earned him 3rd place in the BDCA 2nd Grade Bowling Average Award. Mark was also strong with batting, with an average of 45.88 runs per innings, placing him 3rd in the BDCA Batting Average Award.

Mark received Collie Cricket Club honours for the season, being named the 2016/17 Collie Cricket Club 2nd Grade Champion, as well as being awarded the 2016/17 2nd Grade Most Wicket taker of 30 wickets for the season. Mark's 30 wicket taking season was only further highlighted with taking two 5 wicket innings, and making 406 runs for the season, which included a century in the last game of the regular season. His solid contribution in the semi-final game helped Collie win and move their 2nd Grade side into the Grand Final with the home ground advantage. In the 2016/17 Grand Final, Mark's renown economical bowling prevented the opposition from ever being able to get a head start on the game.

Mark's bowling and batting are not hit only attributes as a sportsman. Mark's humble approach to the game continues to have him respected by both the team he plays for and the opponents he competes with, and he continues to show that the spirit of the game of cricket is alive and well.

Robinson-Hannan Volunteer of the Year Award

Paul Reuben

Cricket

Paul Reuben is the President of the Collie Junior Cricket Club; he has been President for the past 10 years. This role means he is the secretary, treasurer, canteen person, auditor, and news reporter.

For the past 10 years, Paul has been the Junior Vice President for the Senior Committee and has also been the Collie Junior Cricket Delegate for Bunbury & Districts Junior Cricket Association for the past 10 years.

For the past 6 years Paul has been the Collie Junior/Senior Cricket Delegate for the Wellington Cricket Club, which is a combination of Harvey, Leschenault & Collie regions. Paul is the coordinator for the Into Cricket Program that has run during the week for the past 5 years.

Paul runs the Junior Canteen, and has handled this task for the past 10 years. Paul and his wife Kylie run the Collie Junior Cricket Club registration days. Paul often takes on tasks during and prior to match days including line marker, pitch roller, junior umpire, junior scorer, junior water person, and has run countless fundraising sausage sizzles. Paul tries to ensure that cricket players do not miss out on opportunities just because they are from a regional area.

ENDS

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