



## Presidents Report 2017-2018

This was a bumpy year for little athletics on the Northern Beaches, including for the centre (MWLAC) and our club (Wakehurst). Athlete numbers were down as expected in the year following the Olympics – 236 Wakehurst athletes this year, 80 fewer than the previous season.

Wakehurst, as a club, promotes participation and self improvement above other measures of success. We believe that having your kids learning new skills and improving current skills should be our focus. Seeing these fine young people at training on Mondays and Wednesdays, and competing at the track on Saturdays is inspirational. Reflecting this, our club awards focus on those two items only – participation, and personal development measured by literally attempts/events completed, and achieving or equalling a personal best.

This year we had:

- As mentioned, 236 registered athletes from 187 families
- Roughly 120 new athletes
- 116 athletes coming back from previous years
- 13 U17 athletes (9 boys and 4 girls) all but one of whom are competing at Little Athletics for the last time.

During the season from September last year until week 12 (Dec 16<sup>th</sup>) our athletes cumulatively competed in 8799 events, achieving an amazing 5,067 personal best efforts (way up on last season!).

### Age Champions

Number	Age Group	Name
4425	7F	Ashley McGough
4426	7M	Chase Villacorta
46197	8F	Sofia Ehnbohm
4425	8M	Byron Borchert
4363	9F	Jasmine Rintel
46509	9M	Toby Hall
46197	10F	Rebecca Solomon
46197	10M	Ryan Sinclair
4426	11F	Chloe Dunne
4425	11M	Billy Peek
4055	12F	Alejandra Blanco
4259	12M	Gabriel Bertozzi
4055	13F	Alexandra Sinclair
4363	13M	Joel Solomon
4258	14F	Elizabeth Mcmillen
4425	14M	Cameron Laytham
4426	15F	Ciara Sinclair
4055	15M	Alexander Norris
46197	17F	Tea Lisle
4363	17M	Jackson Mackie
<b>Presidents Award: Male</b>		<b>Joel Solomon</b>
<b>Presidents Award Female</b>		<b>Alejandra Blanco</b>



Of our athletes, 131 represented the club at Zone competition, 95 of whom went on to represent us at Regional competition of which 46 represented our club at the LANSW State Championships, half of whom were competing at a State level for the first time. We enjoyed significant success with 5 State Champions, 2 Runners up to State Champions and 7 second runners-up, but more importantly roughly 70% of the events competed in by a Wakehurst athlete produced a PB for that athlete!

## State Athletes (14 medals, 5 Gold, 2 Silver, 7 Bronze)

9F	Jasmine Rintel (Gold 100m, Sil 200m)	Toby Hall	9M
9F	Zara Villacorta	Levi Luxford-Smith	9M
9F	Lily Blewman		
9F	Alice Hancock		
10F	Rebecca Solomon		
10F	Olivia Newsham		
11F	Chloe Dunne (Sil LJ, Br TJ)	Billy Peek (Gold HJ, Br TJ)	11M
11F	Ellia Nordenson	Kaden Rintel	11M
11F	Charlotte Watton (Gold HJ)	Prince Kamara	11M
		Keo Luxford-Smith	11M
		William Drury	11M
		Christiaan Maritz	11M
12F	Alejandra Blanco	Isaac Lanham	12M
		Jett Sully	12M
13F	Tara Laytham	Zachary Flynn	13M
13F	Alexandra Sinclair		
13F	Charlise Sully		
14F	Olivia Thomson	Cameron Laytham (Gold 800m)	14M
14F	Jessica Bryant	Cameron Gorman	14M
14F	Sofia Saroukos	Tony Vujnovic	14M
14F	Amber Williams	Angus Ritchie	14M
14F	Elizabeth Mcmillen (Br 1500mW)		
15F	Emma O'Reilly (Gold 400m, Sil 200m)	Ewan Burns (Br 400m)	15M
15F	Ciara Sinclair	Alexander Norris	15M
15F	Hannah Parker (Br 1500mW)		
15F	Jessica Tallentire		
15F	Aleisha Jeremy		
17F	Tea Lisle	Kieran Gorman (Br 3000m)	17M
17F	Olivia Wrightson	Jack Wrightson	17M
		Angus Cutbill	17M
		Daniel Rasmussen	17M

As a fitting capstone to those achievements was, for the the 11<sup>th</sup> time in 12 years, our athletes secured the MWLAC Colbert Shield in a literally breathtaking display of speed, winning the event by over 100m. Congratulations to the 40 athletes who participated in this wonderful annual spectacle.



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Our Christmas Party this year, held at Lionel Watts, was a roaring success with all comers enjoying some fun, some wonderful Pizza from Stella Blue Glen St, a drink or two, and a little bit of seasonal bonhomie.

As always, Wakehurst club has provided significant volunteer effort to the Manly Centre as well. Each season we require all parents to contribute approximately 6 hours of time in three duties, helping at training, and at Competition, plus duties at representative competition. This year, because our track facilities were not available after Christmas, we have made the decision to waive the requirement for families to provide assistance in the post Christmas period, but we are very grateful for the assistance provided at Wednesday training, none the less. It is worth making note that all assistance is very much appreciated – our entire organisation is volunteer run and operated, and the more that load can be spread, the better.

Wakehurst again contributed significantly to the Age Managers ranks (9 out of the 20!) and track officials (another 7) plus informal assistance; for the IT side of things (Velmir Vujnovic); representation on the MWLAC committee (Ken Carter, Chris Hancock, Mark Jeremy, Jeff Wrightson, Cathy Springall, Colin Lund and myself); regular assistance in general operations (Peter Norris, Jane Wrightson, Cathy and Jamie McMillen, Carmel Parker, Tania Laytham, Michele Thomson and myself).

This year, as most years, we are sorry to farewell some of our committee, for whom we will also be seeking replacements. Leaving us this year is our wonderful Registrar, Amanda Dunne who has provided three years of service on the Committee. We also farewell Mark Lisle from our IT role looking after our web site and Facebook page.

This season was my last as President, I believe in rotation for new ideas and input and encourage any who would like to contribute to consider this rewarding role. I won't kid you – there are periods when it is hard work (heading into a new season and heading into the AGM) but it is a very, very rewarding role.

This year I would like to thank, on behalf of WLAC parents and athletes, Rebel for their ongoing support of our club, and also Stella Blue Glen Street for their support of our Christmas Party.

To all athletes, parents and families, we look forward to welcoming you back next season for more fun in the sun, more personal best performances and that wonderful sense of community that we generate through our training and competition days.

Regards

**Peter Laytham**  
2015/18 President  
Wakehurst Little Athletics Club