

# Media Release

22 APRIL 2022



## COLES LITTLE ATHLETICS AUSTRALIA HALL OF FAME CEREMONY INDUCTS SEVEN FORMER LITTLE ATHLETICS ATHLETES

The Coles Little Athletics Australia Hall of Fame Ceremony is a highly esteemed annual awards ceremony that recognises the achievements of former Little Athletics athletes and the significant contributions of those internally involved in Little Athletics. The ceremony was held on Friday 21 April 2023 at Lakeside Stadium and live streamed on KommunityTV.

The most prestigious honour bestowed on the night is the Life Membership of Little Athletics award, presented to individuals who have given long-term meritorious contributions to Coles Little Athletics Australia. Other honours at the Coles Little Athletics Australia Hall of Fame include induction into the Coles Little Athletics Hall of Fame of former Little Athletes who have achieved at the highest level in their chosen sport or profession across four categories. Also awarded is the Official of the Year Award and Coles Centre of the Year Award.

*“Not only does the Coles Little Athletics Hall of Fame and Special Awards highlight the incredible benefits of participation in Little Athletics and the Little Athletics community, it also showcases its positive impact on individuals later in life in the wider Australian sporting community and beyond.*

*Developing important life skills, such as teamwork and endurance, Coles Little Athletics Australia helps to prepare for success on and off the sporting field”.* said Myles Foreman CEO Coles Little Athletics Australia.

### COLES LITTLE ATHLETICS AUSTRALIA HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES

**Track and Field:** Former Little Athletes who have represented Australia in athletics.

- Jemima Montag – An Olympic racewalker that represented Australia in the Tokyo 2020 Olympics.
- Rheed McCracken – A Paralympic runner that has secured several medals in the Paralympic Games and the IPC Athletics World Championships.

**Sportsperson:** Former Little Athletes who have competed at the highest level in a sport.

- Caitlin Ford – A professional soccer player who plays for FA Women’s Super League club Arsenal and the Australia national team, the Matildas.
- Mark Bilcavs – An AFL premiership player for the Geelong Football Club that was honoured as an All-Australian team in 2022.

**Achiever:** Former Little Athletes who have achieved in a non-sport-related discipline.

- Jason Richardson – A radio and TV personality better known as “Richo” who is a well known presenter for many sports including Athletics and Racing.

**Volunteer:** Any person (excluding those eligible for above) who has made an outstanding contribution to Little Athletics across Australia.

- Teresa Blackman – Since her daughter joined Little Athletics in 2007, she has been extremely involved in her local Little Athletics Centre as well as serving in several key leadership roles in Little Athletics WA.
- Andrew Duncan – First involved in Little Athletics at three years of age and has been instrumental in introducing change and innovation to the way Little Athletics is conducted at Centre, Region and State levels while respecting the treasured traditions of the sport.

### **LIFE MEMBERSHIP INDUCTEES**

**Life Membership of Little Athletics Australia:** Individuals who have given long-term meritorious contributions to Coles Little Athletics Australia.

- Glynis Nunn – A former Olympian that has overseen the National Little Athletics Australia Annual Camp since its inception nine years ago.
- Heather Mitchell – Heavily involved in the world of Athletics and in particular Little Athletics in NSW for over 30 years.

### **SPECIAL AWARDS**

**Coles Little Athletics Australia Official of the Year Award:**

- Leanne Ryan – Has contributed significantly to Little Athletics at local, state, and national levels over the last 24 years alongside her family.

**Coles Little Athletics Australia Centre of the Year Award:**

#### **Major City Category**

- Bribie District Little Athletics Centre – One of Queensland’s newest Centres, since being formed in 2017 the centre has made outstanding efforts to be inclusive of athletes of all abilities and diversity, as well as fostering close relationships with its local council and schools.

#### **Inner Regional Category**

- Yarrawonga Mulwala Little Athletics Centre – Promoting a supportive culture, the Centre encourages athletes by awarding medals for personal bests and develops leadership by tasking older athletes with kicking off meetings and running exercises.

#### **Very Remote Category**

- Broome Little Athletics Centre – Hosted a number of community-centered events, including the open-age WA North West Athletics Championships, and the Kimberly Gift, which helps to create a platform for young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians to showcase and pursue their passions.

Occurring the same weekend as the 2023 Coles Australian Little Athletics Championships which runs from Friday 21<sup>st</sup> April to Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> April, the Coles Little Athletics Australia Hall of Fame Ceremony is an impactful way to kickstart the notable weekend for Coles Little Athletics Australia.

## About the Coles Little Athletics Hall of Fame

Over 90 former Little Athletes have already been inducted since the Coles Little Athletics Australia Hall of Fame was first launched in 2009. Inductees include Olympic and Commonwealth medal winners across multiple sports, AFL, Basketball, Cricket, Cycling, Football, Golf, Hockey, Lacrosse, Netball, Rowing, Rugby Union, Surfers, and Skiing who have completed at the highest level of their sport, as well as Politicians, Journalists and Entertainers. The Hall of Fame includes well-known figures such as Sally Pearson Olympic and Commonwealth Hurdles medallist, Alana Kennedy member of the Matilda's women's national football team, past Justice Crew members John and Lenny Pearce, with John also starring on The Wiggles, and previous AFL Premiership captain Joel Selwood, all were involved in Little Athletics as children, the values Little Athletics teaches are beneficial for all future endeavours.

For more information: <https://www.littleathletics.com.au/about-us/hall-of-fame/>

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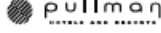
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