

LA TROBE SPORT

November 2017

La Trobe University Blues Awards Citations 2017

La Trobe University Blues Awards citations as read on the night by
Master of Ceremonies, Mel Jones.

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Outstanding Service to Sport

Peter Gooch

Nominated by the University, Peter Gooch, University Grounds Supervisor, has dedicated over 30 years of service to delivering sports fields that are amongst the best in Victoria. Often working outside of hours to ensure the University sports grounds are of the highest competition standard possible. Peter's work ethic and commitment to not only maintaining the sports fields at a high level but also developing positive relationships with our Sport Clubs, Sports partners and other user groups is to be commended and the University recognises Peter as a great ambassador for La Trobe.

Jasmine Adams

Nominated by the University Netball Club, Jasmine has been recognised for stepping into the role of president 2 years ago during a challenging period for the Club. During her time as President, Jasmine has successfully coordinated the club to play in external competitions and grown participation numbers from 3 teams to 6 including mixed, many playing in finals this year. In addition Jasmine has been able to form a successful committee and lead multiple fundraising efforts. The Club has said without Jasmine the netball club would not be running and she is a great role model for all Club members.

Samantha Greene

Nominated by the La Trobe University Football Club, Samantha Greene has been hailed as the driving force in the development of the women's arm of the club and led the charge to get a second side formed in 2017, which increased female club participation by an incredible 267% from 2016. Samantha personally ensures all new female Club members are provided with a safe and welcoming environment to start their football career and she has been both a Club President and Captain since first playing with the Club in 2009. On field she has played over 100 games and is a 9-time leading goal kicker, with no other player holding this accolade in the Club's history.

Jonghak Kim

Nominated by the University Taekwondo Club, Master Kim has been described as being one of the greatest assets to the Club. In addition to regular training sessions, he volunteers many additional hours and has donated belts, bandages and training equipment to benefit club members. The Club says that Master Kim takes on his coaching role wholeheartedly and his commitment, kindness and generosity is worthy of recognition.

Charlotte Maynard

Nominated by the La Trobe Mountaineering Club, Charlotte has been a member since 2008 and on the committee for several years. This year, Charlotte has shown exceptional leadership in being a key mentor for students learning her sport of rock-climbing and has organized all of the Clubs rock-climbing events at indoor centres and outdoor trips to national parks around Melbourne. Rock-climbing is a particularly challenging and risky sport and she has ensured the safety and comfort of all participants. Charlotte has also actively

encouraged other advanced climbing members to improve their skills and has sought competitions for the Club to represent La Trobe.

[James Rourke-Dunkley](#)

Nominated by the La Trobe University Snowsports Team, James has been recognised for actively pursuing the development of the club and risen through the ranks of the committee to hold the positions of Secretary and President. As president, James developed additional trips and activities to enhance the on and off snow experiences for members. In addition to his committee service James has been team captain at numerous Varsity events, providing leadership and guidance to the team from a performance and mental health perspective. At all levels James is an active supporter of Sport Programs delivered at La Trobe, particularly during his time serving on the previous Sport Clubs Executive. James is hailed as a significant contributor to the betterment of sport as a whole at La Trobe.

[Jade Stuart](#)

Nominated by the La Trobe University Touch Club for her remarkable leadership, Jade Stuart has been tireless in her contribution to the Club and sport at the University over the last five years. Whilst Jade was President of the Club she has coordinated new competitions and programs that has grown student participation and focused on improving the Club's culture and governance. Jade has led student members of the Club to participate in the Southern and Australian University Games, undertaking the official role of Team Captain in 2016. Jade is seen as a great role model for all sport participants, playing and interacting with a great sense of integrity and personal excellence. In addition, Jade sat on the former La Trobe Sports Executive Committee, which saw her broadly support and campaign for the needs of all Clubs.

[John Tran](#)

Nominated by the Netball Club, John has been recognised for going above and beyond in managing the club's participation in several University Games as both a player in 12 games, and as a Team Manager. The netball team is the biggest squad of players that attends University Games and John manages this logistical feat with ease. During the games, John supports each team member and ensures the netball squad supports the rest of Team La Trobe. John also played a key role as Team Captain this year, representing all student athletes at Southern University Games and the Australian University Games.

Sport Club of the Year

[La Trobe Mountaineering Club \(Honourable Mention\)](#)

The La Trobe University Mountaineering Club provides a friendly environment that encourages the enjoyment of and participation in outdoor adventure sports.

This club has over 90 active members who have participated in 85 events during 2017, resulting in many hours of outdoor sports activity. The club prides itself on giving students the opportunity to try and excel in a wide range of new sports including; kayaking, rock climbing, mountain biking and cross-country skiing, which they may not have participated in before.

This year the club has expanded its competitive side and had multiple teams enter Victorian Rogaining Association events. The club is also busy training for the Inter-University Club Rock-climbing competition next year.

The La Trobe University Mountaineering Club has made a significant contribution to La Trobe Sport through the multitude of student experiences it has provided during 2016/2017.

[Dive La Trobe \(Winner\)](#)

Dive La Trobe aims to create an inclusive environment for all within the LTU Community. With over 100 active members, the club boasts year-round opportunities for divers and non-divers alike.

In 2017, Dive La Trobe ran frequent dive courses and club nights, as well as events such as Dive for a Cure and the Great Victorian Fish Count and hosted members' trips to Tasmania, Queenscliff and Mount Gambier.

Dive La Trobe prides itself on investing in its people, having created mentorship programs and leadership roles that provide student members with the opportunity to develop skills central to their time at university. New committee members are given ownership of their portfolios and provided with support to grow and succeed from experienced administrators.

Dive La Trobe explores many avenues to increase both its membership base and the professionalism of the club. These include establishing links to Accommodation Services and Bioscience Students and participating in La Trobe Sport training sessions.

Dive La Trobe is proud to report that 59% of Dive La Trobe members are female which is against the trend of the traditionally male dominated sport of SCUBA Diving and is an extremely worthy recipient of the Sports Club of the Year.

[University Half-Blue](#)

[Jessica Adams](#)

Jess is a national level swimmer and currently trains at DVE Aquatic in Melbourne. At the recent Australian Open Short Course Championships, 18 year old Jess competed against open age swimmers (including Olympians) and placed 4th nationally in the 400m Individual Medley, breaking the 18 year old age group record! Jess won 7 of her 8 events at the Victorian Age Short Course Championships, placing her as the top swimmer in Victoria in her age group and 2nd in open age. Jess also represented La Trobe at the Australian University Games on the Gold Coast, coming away with 2 gold and 2 silver medals.

This year, Jess was selected onto the Australian Talent Identification Squad and will be trialling for the Commonwealth Games early next year.

[Renata Allen](#)

Renata is a cheerleader, competing for her club Dreamtyme All Stars nationally and internationally. In April 2016, Renata was for the third consecutive year part of a team representing Australia at the International All Star Federation Cheerleading and Dance

World Championships in Florida. Her team of 10 was invited to attend this event after winning a National qualification event. Renata and her team qualified for the final, placing 7th overall. Renata graduated from La Trobe at the end of last year, but is still continuing her sport whilst juggling a job as an Anti-Money Laundering Officer.

[Madeleine Batters](#)

Maddie is a member of the Australian U/23 Wild Water Kayak team and currently trains at the Bendigo Canoe Club. Earlier this year, Maddie represented Australia at the U/23 Wild-Water World Championships in Austria in the K1 women's events; placing 16th in the classic, 14th in the sprint and 7th in the teams category. Earlier this year, Maddie was awarded a La Trobe University Women in Leadership bursary for Bendigo students. Maddie is now focussing on the upcoming National Championships in January, as well as continuing to coach a junior development squad.

[Jontee Brown](#)

After only taking up the sport 2 years ago, Jontee is now a member of the Australian U/23 Wheelchair Basketball team. Earlier this year, Jontee represented Australia at the U/23 World Qualifiers in Thailand, placing third and progressing to the World Championships in Canada, where they also won bronze. He also represented Victoria in the Junior Australian Championships again winning a bronze medal. Jontee currently represents the Kilsyth Cobras in National Wheelchair Basketball League.

[Nicola Brown](#)

Nicola is a national Hockey Umpire identified by Hockey Australia as a future elite international umpire. Receiving the Elaine Dunke award from Hockey Victoria for being the Female Umpire of the Year, Nicola had an extremely successful 2017. Her highlights include umpiring the gold medal match at the U21 National Hockey Championships, and being selected to reserve umpire both the USA vs Australia match at the International Festival of Hockey and last week's test match between Australia and Japan.

[Olivia Burnett](#)

Olivia is a national level gymnast competing in Level 10 Women's Artistic Gymnastics (WAG). Olivia was the captain of the Gymnastics Victoria Women's Team for the Australian Championships in both 2016 and 2017 medalling as a team and an individual in the all-around competition in consecutive years. Olivia also represented and captained Australia in the Trans-Tasman Gymnastics Championships in Invercargill, New Zealand. She was the silver medallist in the all-around competition at the 2016 and 2017 National Clubs Carnival and has medalled in every national all-round competition in the past 18 months. Olivia competes for MLC Gymnastics Club, where she has been the club captain for the past 2 years and was awarded Senior Athlete of the Year and a Service to Sport award.

[Rachael Capp](#)

Rachael Capp competes nationally in Sport Aerobics with her club Aerodance. She has competed internationally in both 2016 and 2017 at the Federation of International Sport Aerobics and Fitness World Championships, placing 3rd in 2016. Last month, Rachael again competed at World Championships where her team won, being named World Champions in their category.

[Benjamin Considine](#)

Ben is a national longboard surfer competing in Open Logging and high performance competitions around Australia. Earlier this year, Ben claimed the National Open Logger Title at the Australian Surf Festival and the Victorian Open Longboard and Open Logger Champion at the Victorian Longboard Titles. Ben also competed in the Australasian circuit of the World Longboard Qualifying Series placing 6th. Ben is currently focussing on placing well on the Australasian circuit of the Men's World Longboard Qualifying Series aiming to qualify for the World Tour in the future.

[Ethan Daws](#)

Ethan is a national swimmer competing in multi-class S16 after receiving a kidney transplant on April 2011, and currently trains at Kilmore Swimming Club. Earlier this year, Ethan was selected to represent Australia in 5 events at the World Transplant Games in Spain, placing 2nd in 2 of them. Ethan is now focusing on the 2018 Australian Swimming Championships and training for the Transplant Games again next year.

[Elise Franetic](#)

Elise is a member of the Australian U/23 rowing team and currently trains at the Victorian Institute of Sport and Melbourne University Boat Club. Earlier this year, Elise represented Australia at the U/23 World Rowing Championships in Bulgaria in the women's coxed four event, placing 8th. Domestically, Elise represents Victoria at the Australian Rowing Championships, from where she was selected to trial for the Australian team. Elise is now training for the 2018 Australian Rowing Team trials in April and will be based at the Victorian Institute of Sport.

[Liam Garriga](#)

Liam is a national Inline Speed Skater, based at Speed Skaterz Eltham and a member of the Victorian and Australian teams. This year, Liam represented Australia in multiple distance events at the World Games in July 2017 in Poland. Finishing 10th in one event was a significant achievement after being the sole Australian athlete to qualify for the Games, restricted to the top 40 athletes internationally. Liam also competed for Australia at the World Roller Games in Nanjing, China being the top placed Australian male in the 10,000m final.

[Casey Haynes](#)

Casey has been a member of the Australian underage Marathon Kayak team since 2013, and currently trains at Bendigo Canoe Club. Earlier this year, Casey represented Australia at the U/23 World Marathon Kayak Championships in South Africa in the K1 26.6km event, placing 18th in the world. Casey also represented Australia at the same event in Germany in 2016 placing 28th. Casey is now focussing on the 2018 national championships in Adelaide where he hopes to better his 3rd place finish this year. Casey is aiming is to make the Australian team for the 6th consecutive year, to race at the 2018 world marathon championships in Portugal.

[Rebecca Mann](#)

Rebecca is a member of the Australian U/23 Sprint Kayak team and currently trains at Goldfield Paddlers in Bendigo. In 2016, Rebecca represented Australia at the U/23 World Sprint Kayak Championships in Belarus in the women's K4 and K2 events, placing 8th and 12th respectively. This year, Rebecca competed nationally in the women's open age group placing 3rd in the K4 events at the National Sprint Championships, and 2nd in the 26.25km race at National Marathon Championships. Rebecca is now focusing on the National Sprint Championships in early 2018 and aims to gain another selection into the U/23 national team.

[Tasman Nankervis](#)

Tasman is a national Mountain Bike rider and currently rides for TorqMerida on a national and international stage. Earlier this year, Tasman represented Australia at the UCI World Mountain Bike Championships in Cairns in the cross country event, placing 42nd in the world. He also competed at the same event in the Czech Republic in 2016 placing 26th. Tasman took out the 2017 U/23 Australian Mountain Bike Championships on the Gold Coast earlier this year, and is now the national mountain bike champion in the cross country event. Tasman is now focusing on the final selection racing to qualify for the 2018 Commonwealth Games.

[Owen Odigie](#)

Owen is an elite basketballer playing for Melbourne United in the NBL for the 2016-17 season, and now with Kilsyth Cobras in the SEABL. Last month, Owen was selected to represent Australia at the FIBA 3X3 Basketball Asia Cup in Mongolia, claiming a bronze medal. Owen also represented La Trobe at the recent Australian University Games, where he helped the team place 4th in the Division 1 competition and was selected into the Green and Gold merit squad. Owen is now focussing on completing his degree and the 2018 SEABL season, aiming to regain a spot on an NBL team next year.

[Sophie Taylor](#)

Sophie is a full scholarship holder to the VIS Women's Hockey Program. During 2016, Sophie competed in the Junior Wold Cup qualifying tournament and was selected to tour both England and Japan as part of the Australian Under 23 Development Squad. Sophie currently plays for the Victorian Vipers in the Australian Hockey League, last month claiming the national championships.

[Alice Teague-Neeld](#)

Alice is an elite netballer currently playing for the Magpies in the Suncorp Super Netball League. Earlier this year, Alice represented Australia as the Vice-Captain at the Netball World Youth Cup in Botswana, finishing runners up. Last year, Alice played for the Vixens in the ANZ Championship competition and was named in the Australian U/20 squad for the International U/20 series against New Zealand and England. She was also a part of the Emerging Athlete Fast 5 program at the AIS. Alice is now focussing on preseason with the Magpies and a successful 2018 Suncorp Super Netball season.

[Angeline Thomas](#)

Angeline is a national Inline Speed Skater, based at Speed Skaterz Eltham and a member of the Victorian and Australian teams. Angeline was selected as the Australian Flag Bearer to represent all skate sports at the inaugural 2017 World Roller Games in China. Angeline was the only senior female athlete on the Australian team and is the Oceanic representative in the MX Takino world skating team. Angeline won the International Marathon Championships in China in both 2016 and 2017, and claimed the National Record in both the 100m sprint and 20km races at the Elizabeth Downes Australian Championships in 2017, demonstrating the versatility she possesses within the sport.

[Joshua Thornton](#)

Josh competes nationally in lawn bowls in both the AWD (athlete with a disability) and open events. In the past 2 years, Josh has represented Australia twice in the Trans-Tasman series against New Zealand and also at the A8 Nations event; all of which Australia won! Earlier this year, Josh competed at the Australian Open Lawn Bowls Championships on the Gold Coast, entering both AWD and open events. Josh had to withdraw from the AWD events to focus on his open results, and went on to win the Open Pairs event with his teammate. Josh's sole focus is the 2018 Commonwealth Games with the announcement of the bowls team to be made in the next couple of weeks.

[Jeremy Tyndall](#)

Jeremy is a member of the Australian U/23 Wheelchair Basketball team and currently plays for the Kilsyth Cobras in the National Wheelchair Basketball League. After taking up the sport only four years ago, Jeremy has excelled through the ranks winning 2 back to back NWBL Championships and representing Australia three times. Earlier this year, Jeremy represented Australia at the U/23 World Qualifiers in Thailand, claiming a bronze medal and progression to the World Championships in Canada, where they also won bronze! Jeremy was also a member of the Victorian U/23 team at the 2017 Australian Junior Championships, coming away with a bronze medal.

[Tayla Vlaeminck](#)

Tayla is an elite cricketer currently playing for the Melbourne Renegades in the Women's Big Bash League in her second consecutive season. Recently, Tayla was contracted to the VicSpirit – Victorian Women's Cricket team for the 2017/2018 season after being identified through the national development pathway. Tayla is now focusing on the upcoming VicSpirit round being played this weekend, and will then turn her attention towards the WBBL season. Tayla is currently studying in Bendigo and hopes to transfer to the Bundoora campus in 2018 to help to juggle her cricket commitments alongside her physiotherapy degree.

University Blue

[Rebecca Allen](#)

Rebecca is a member of the Australian Opals women's basketball squad and has played the past 2 WNBA seasons with the New York Liberty. Rebecca is unable to be here tonight as she is currently living in France playing professionally in the French LFB League.

[Darryl George](#)

Darryl plays for the Melbourne Aces in the Australian Baseball League and represents Australia internationally on the national team. Darryl spent most of this year playing professionally in Japan for the Orix Buffaloes. He is unable to receive his award tonight as he is in Adelaide playing for the Melbourne Aces.

[Emily Marotta](#)

Emily is currently the number 1 ranked fencer in Australia for Women's Foil and is the open National Champion. Emily is receiving funding through the Oceanic Fencing Federation in order to prepare an Australia representative for the Tokyo 2020 Olympics. She is unable to attend tonight as she is currently in Italy, training for an international Grand Prix.

[Katerina Paul](#)

Katerina is a member of the Australian Cross-Country Ski team, training and competing internationally. She is currently on the Shadow Winter Olympic Team, hoping to achieve selection next month. Kat is unable to attend tonight as she is training in Norway for her upcoming European World Cup season.

[Eric Vuong](#)

Eric represented Australia in Badminton as a part of the 'Uni roos' at the World University Games – Summer Universiade in Taipei this year. He is currently part of the Australian Badminton squad preparing for the 2018 Commonwealth Games. Eric is unable to collect his award as he is currently training in Indonesia.

[Luke Argiro](#)

Luke is an Australian Clay Target Shooter (Skeet) supported by the Victorian Institute of Sport, and currently trains at Mildura Clay Target Club. Last year, Luke was selected by Shooting Australia to represent Australia as a La Trobe University student at the World University Championships in Poland, where he placed a respectable 17th place. Earlier this year, Luke was selected to compete in the 2nd ISSF World Cup for 2017 in Mexico, in order to gain international experience. Nationally, Luke has won gold and bronze at recent Sydney Cup events and was selected to the Victorian State Skeet team. Luke is now focussing on qualifying for the 2018 Commonwealth Games where he is currently sitting in 4th place with one selection event left. He will then focus his attention towards upcoming World Cup events in 2018 and training towards the 2020 Tokyo Olympics.

[Emma Cox](#)

Emma is an Australian Clay Target Shooter (Trap) supported by the Victorian Institute of Sport. In 2016, Emma won a gold medal at the ISSF Shotgun World Cup and was ranked 5th in the world. She

also won 3 national championships and set 2 Australian records. Emma is unable to attend tonight as she is currently preparing for Commonwealth Games selections next week.

[Patrick Crisp](#)

Patrick is a national water skier competing for the Geelong Waterski Club and representing Australia multiple times in the past 18 months. Patrick was selected to represent Australia as a La Trobe University student at the 2016 World University Water Ski Championships in Japan where he was Australia's top performer in the Open Men's Slalom. Patrick also competed on the international stage at the U21 World Water Ski Championships in Ukraine, and at the Asian Oceania Championships in New Zealand, placing 1st in 2 events and 2nd overall. Patrick was named the Victorian Junior Team Captain at the past 2 Australian Championships, placing 6th overall in the open men's division, and is the current Victorian Open Men's Champion for Slalom, Tricks, Jump and Overall.

[Hannah Cross](#)

Hannah is a member of the Australian Synchronised Swimming squad training at both the Victorian and Australian Institutes of Sport. After growing up both swimming and dancing, Hannah was one of only nine athletes to form part of the Australian Synchronised Swimming Team for the 2016 Rio Olympic Games, where the team placed 8th overall. She also represented her country at the 2017 FINA World Championships in Budapest Hungary.

[Ahmed Kelly](#)

Ahmed is an Australian Paralympic swimmer who was based at the Melbourne Vicentre Swimming Club and the Victorian Instituted of Sport, until he recently moved to the AIS in Canberra. Last year, Ahmed represented Australia at the Rio Paralympics in four events; with his best result in the Men's 50m Breaststroke SB3 placing 7th in the final. This year, Ahmed placed 1st and 2nd in his Breaststroke events at the Victorian Swimming Championships and has since been recovering from a major injury. He is back on track for the upcoming state champs in January. Ahmed is a current scholarship holder at the AIS, where he is training in preparation for the 2018 Para Pan Pacific Games in Cairns and then onto Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Games.

[Anna Kelly](#)

Anna is a national Cross Country runner and currently trains at South Melbourne Athletics. In 2016, Anna was awarded the Fred Lester Distance Running Scholarship through Athletics Victoria to support distance runners in high performance. Earlier this year, Anna represented Australia at the IAFF World Cross Country Championships in Uganda, placing 31st overall and the first Australian senior female to cross the line. Anna is the 2017 Victorian 6km Cross Country Champion, placed 2nd in the 2017 Australian Running Festival Half Marathon and 4th in the Melbourne Marathon 10km event. This year, Anna was also the inaugural recipient of the La Trobe University Elite Athlete Housing Scholarship providing accommodation for one year at the University campus.

[Hannah MacDougall](#)

Hannah is a current VIS Scholarship holder for the sport of Cycling and previous Paralympic Swimmer. Hannah has represented Australia at numerous international competitions over the past 18 months. Earlier this year, Hannah won gold at the UCI Para World Cup Road Race in Italy, holding the World Cup Leader Jersey, and silver in the both the Road Race and

Time Trial in Belgium. At the 2017 UCI Para-Cycling Road World Championships in South Africa, she finished 4th in the Women's Time Trial C4 and 5th in the Women's Road Race C4-5. This year, Hannah became the first female amputee to compete in the elite women's time trial at the Cycling Australia National Championships.

[Bree Mellberg](#)

Bree Mellberg is a member of the Australian National Women's wheelchair basketball team; the Gliders. In three years, she has moved through the ranks from local involvement with the Kilsyth Cobras to Victorian and then national level selection. During 2017, Bree competed with the Gliders in the Osaka Cup in Japan, The World Super Cup in Germany and the Continental Clash in England. The Gliders team came away with two bronze and a silver medal in these competitions and have recently been selected to compete in the 2018 World Championships in Hamburg.

[Annabel Muttdon](#)

Annabel is a national Aerobic Gymnast on the Australian senior squad and a competitor for her club Loreto Gymnastics. Annabel was an Australian Representative at both the Suzuki World Cup and the 2016 ANAC International Aerobic Championships held in Las Vegas, where she achieved 2nd place and was selected onto the Senior National Squad. At the Australian Aerobic Gymnastics Championships in 2016, Annabel placed 1st in the Aerodance Senior Trio competition and received medals in both 2016 and 2017 in the Senior Individual Female category. Annabel graduated from La Trobe at the end of 2016, and is now working as a podiatrist and continues to compete at an elite level.

[Joshua Quinn](#)

Josh is a national level weightlifter and currently trains at In2performance Weightlifting Club in Melbourne. Earlier this year, Josh was selected by Weightlifting Australia to represent Australia as a La Trobe University student at the World University Games – Summer Universiade in Taipei. Domestically, Josh placed 3rd in the 2017 Senior Victorian Championships and 5th at the 2016 and 2017 Australian National Championships. Josh is now focussing on training hard to make the senior and national titles in 2018.

Academic and Sporting Excellence Award

[Emily Marotta](#)

Emily is currently the number 1 ranked fencer in Australia for Women's Foil and is the Open National Champion.

Emily is in her 3rd year of a Bachelor of Applied Science and Master of Podiatric Practice studying full-time at the La Trobe Bundoora campus. Emily's results from subjects in Semester 2, 2016 and Semester 1 this year were considered for this award; achieving a weighted average mark of 85.375 in that period, with A grades for all of her 8 subjects. As Emily moves into her 4th year, the Podiatry department will be working to manage her placements around her international competition commitments.

This year, Emily has won 3 national open competitions and looks to take out the upcoming National Championships in December. Emily achieved the best result by any Australian at the 2017 Asian Senior Championships, placing 14th; which is also the best result by an Australian Women's Foilist since 2008. Due to these outstanding results, Emily is now receiving funding through the Oceanic Fencing Federation in order to prepare an Australia representative for the Tokyo 2020 Olympics. This is the first time this funding has ever been awarded, and it will support Emily to compete on full international circuit for the first time. Emily is currently ranked 106 in the world and is hoping to break the top 100 this season. In addition to her study and competition commitments, Emily took up a role as a director of Fencing Victoria in July this year.

Emily is unable to attend tonight as she is currently in Italy training for an international Grand Prix, but I would like to invite her mum Mary Cannon to receive the award on Emily's behalf.

Sportswoman of the Year

[Emma Cox](#)

Emma is an Australian Clay Target Shooter (Trap) supported by the Victorian Institute of Sport, and currently trains at Shepparton Field and Game.

In 2016, Emma achieved a Gold Medal in Women's Trap Shooting at the ISSF Shotgun World Cup held in San Marino. She also competed in the prestigious ISSF World Cup Final, reserved for World Cup winners and World Champions, placing 10th. Emma's highest ranking in 2016 was World No. 5.

Emma also captained the winning Women's World DTL team in Ireland, and set the Australian Women's long break record for hitting 523 targets in a row. Emma also won the Australian and New Zealand Ladies Point Score Championship, the Australian Single Barrel Championship, and the Highgun for the Ladies Australian Mackintosh team.

This year, Emma again competed in ISSF Shotgun World Cups in India and Mexico. She set an Australian (men's and women's) record at the National Championships, scoring 749/750. Emma was also the first ever female competitor of the Australian Glenn Cup Team for which she was named captain.

Emma graduated from La Trobe at the end of last year and is now working as a primary teacher while currently undergoing selections for the 2018 Commonwealth Games.

Emma is unable to attend tonight as she is currently preparing for Commonwealth Games selections next week, but I would like to invite her mum Kerrie Cox to receive the award on Emma's behalf.

Sportsman of the Year

Ahmed Kelly

Ahmed is an Australian Paralympic swimmer who has recently relocated to the AIS in Canberra on a swimming scholarship. Ahmed was previously based in Melbourne at the Victorian Instituted of Sport and competing for Melbourne Vicentre Swimming Club.

Last year, Ahmed represented Australia at the Rio Paralympics in four events; Men's 50m Backstroke S3, 150m Individual Medley SM4 and Mixed 4 x 50m Freestyle Relay, with his best result in the Men's 50m Breaststroke SB3 placing 7th in the final.

Ahmed also competed in the Victorian Open State Swimming Championships placing 2nd in 100m and 3rd in 50m Breaststroke events. He also won the 100m Breaststroke at the Australian Swimming Championships, and placed 4th in 50m Breaststroke gaining priority 1 selection for the Australian Paralympic Swimming Team for Rio.

This year, Ahmed placed 1st and 2nd in his Breaststroke events at the Victorian Swimming Championships and has since been recovering from a major injury. He is now back on track, preparing at the AIS for the upcoming state champs in January.

As Ahmed's events will not be competed at the 2018 Commonwealth Games, he will now be focusing on training for the 2018 Para Pan Pacific Games in Cairns in August and then onto Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Games.