

LA TROBE SPORT

October 2018

La Trobe University Blues Awards Citations 2018

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

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Outstanding Service to Sport

Grant Dowler

Nominated by the La Trobe University Football Club, Grant has been a proud and passionate servant for the AFL club for over 9 years; well beyond his university tenure. Grant was also proudly awarded life membership in 2018. A committee member since 2013, as well as being named in the team of the decade, Grant has been involved in unifying the men's and women's arms of the club, the introduction of the Koorie Academy of Excellence as well as many other often unrewarded tasks.

Sarah Laussen

Nominated by the La Trobe University Rowing Club, Sarah has been a Club Member since 2009, Committee Member since 2011 and President of the LTU Rowing Club since 2013. Sarah has competed in Australia's biggest rowing race, the Head of the Yarra since 2012 winning gold for the club in 2012 and 2014. Sarah has also represented La Trobe at University National Championships, State Championships and coached in the clubs learn to row program.

4 years ago the LTU Rowing Club purchased a boat and called it 'The Laussen' which is a testament to just how much Sarah has contributed over the last 9 years.

Gina O'Connor

Nominated by the La Trobe University Surfing Club, Gina is the current Club President. During her presidency, Gina has expanded the number of surf trips on offer to students and provided stand up paddle boarding alternatives for beginners. Gina has focused the club on providing additional opportunities for international students to experience Victoria's Surf Coast in a fun and safe environment. Gina has managed the clubs finances, recruited a range of new committee members and acted as a surf coach and mentor for hundreds of new surfers.

Tony Truong

Nominated by La Trobe Sport, Tony can be found helping out at a variety of sporting activities and events. Tony has represented La Trobe University at University Nationals in Cricket, Soccer, Table Tennis and Futsal, being a Team Manager and then Team Captain. He has been an Ambassador at Open Day, attended LTU 50th Celebrations and Melbourne Rebels activations, as well as assisting with the presentation of the 2017 Blues Awards. He also guest starred as an actor in tonight's introduction video. Tony is courteous, professional and always willing to go above and beyond what is required to promote sport at La Trobe University.

Emily Turnbull

Nominated by the La Trobe University Football Club, as well as a successful on field career, Emily has played a pivotal role in the development of a second women's football team at the La Trobe University AFL Club. The Club and has seen an incredible 267% increase in female participation from 2016 to 2018, in no small part due to Emily's off field administration work as Club Vice President. In 2018, Emily would take pride in the fact that that the women were now comfortably outnumbering the men at pre-season training.

Sport Club of the Year

Honourable mention

La Trobe University Tennis Club

La Trobe University Tennis Club has seen exponential growth and development across the board. In 2018, the club amassed over 107 members, (up from 61 the previous year), has grown the committee to 12 members, hosted their first ever collaborated event, produced some remarkable results on the court. The club's female team won the Division 2 National University Championships and their past President won the Victorian Young Volunteer of the Year at the Victorian Sport Awards. The club has achieved on field success all whilst actively fostering participation and enjoyment at all levels of sport.

Winner

La Trobe University Mountaineering Club

Established in 1968, the La Trobe University Mountaineering Club prides itself in giving students the opportunity to enjoy, participate and excel in a wide range of outdoor adventure sports, including - Bushwalking, Kayaking, Rafting, Mountain Biking and much more. The club runs trips all year round, showcasing to students (many whom are international) what Victoria has to offer and encourages students to step outside their comfort zone with new experiences.

In the past year alone, the club has run 186 club events, totalling to over 4000 hours of sporting activity. This year, the club has provided leadership training for members, a new events management system that improves organisation for trip leaders, and remote first aid training.

The Club supports students in developing skills that will allow them to fulfil leadership opportunities within the club in the future. In 2018, The Mountaineering Club offered opportunities for students to gain practical experience in a range of areas that complement their study such as policy creation and risk management.

University Half-Blue

Elizabeth Birch

Libby Birch, an AFLW player with the Western Bulldogs, was selected into the AFLW All Australian squad for 2018. She played in the winning AFLW premiership team earlier this year and was recently selected in the VFL-Women's 2018 Team of the Year. Libby is in her third year of a Bachelor of Applied Science and Master of Physiotherapy Practice.

Theodoros Benehoutsos

Theo Benehoutsos is a first year student completing a double degree in Criminology & Psychological Science. Theo is a swimmer in the Victorian Institute of Sport and is also a recipient of the 2018 TechnologyOne High Performance Sport Scholarship at La Trobe University. He most recently represented Australia at the Japan Open with the national youth development squad, and is currently ranked third in Australia for the 100m and 200m butterfly. Theo is competing at the Australian Short Course Championships tonight, and his

father Fotios will receive the award on his behalf.

[Ruth Brophy](#)

Ruth Brophy represented Australia in the senior women's team at the World Inline Hockey Championships in Italy in July as the goalkeeper. Ruth combines her passion for Hockey with her studies of Bachelor of Animal and Veterinary Biosciences at La Trobe, currently in her second year.

[Claudia Fruscalzo](#)

Claudia Fruscaizo is a Futsal player, who represented Australia in the senior Women's national team at the 2017 AMF Women's Futsal World Cup in Spain. Claudia balances her Futsal commitments with her studies, currently in her fourth year of a double degree of a Bachelor of Commerce/Law at La Trobe.

[Gary Hassbroek](#)

In June Gary Hassbroek represented Australia at the IAAF World U20 Track and Field Championships held in Finland - competing in the decathlon. Following his great performance, Gary was scouted for an American College and has accepted a full scholarship to study in the U.S and continue his athletics career. Gary's brother Paul will receive his award tonight on his behalf.

[Thomas Hoogenraad](#)

Tom Hoogenraad is a cross country skier, who has been selected into the Australian Under 20 Cross-Country ski team for the upcoming European season. In July, Tom placed second in two events at the Australian Junior National Championships enabling him to progress to the World Junior Championships in 2019. Tom studies a Bachelor of Law/Bachelor of Science, he is in his second year and is also an ambassador for the La Trobe Elite Athlete Program.

[Ella Jackson](#)

Ella Jackson is a Cross country skier, currently in the Australian Under-23 team. She placed in the top 3 at the Australian Skate Championships and will be travelling to America this summer to train and compete with the national team. Ella is also a first year student studying Bachelor of Human Services and Master of Social Work at La Trobe.

[Lionel Mawditt](#)

Lionel Mawditt is a road cyclist, currently racing in the National Road Series and with continental teams on an international level. Lionel was selected to represent the Australia national team at the Herald Sun Tour earlier this year, placing 11th overall. Lionel is also studying a Bachelor of Applied Science and Master of Physiotherapy Practice part-time. Lionel is currently away racing on tour in New Zealand, and his mother Jeannie will receive the award on his behalf.

[Michael McMahon](#)

Michael McMahon is a member of the Australian Men's Hockey team, competing at the 2018 Ice Hockey World Championships in Holland. Michael competes for the Melbourne Mustangs in the Australian Ice Hockey League and was awarded the Best Defenceman at their recent awards night. Michael is due to complete his Bachelor of International Business at the end of this year.

University Blue

Kyah English

Kyah English is a first year student studying a Bachelor of Applied Science and Master of Dietetic Practice. She was the recipient of the La Trobe Elite Athlete Housing Scholarship this year, supporting her to live on campus at Bundoora. Kyah represented Australia at the Oceania Taekwondo Championships in Tahiti in August. Most recently she has been selected into the Australian Taekwondo squad and awarded a training scholarship at the VIS.

Brodie Grundy

Brodie Grundy, a Grand Finalist ruckman for the Collingwood Football Club. Brodie is currently studying a Bachelor of Health Science part-time alongside his football. Brodie had a career best season in 2018 and was awarded one of the Australian Football League's highest honours, being selected as an All Australian, the AFL's team of the year.

Joy Lai

Joy Lai recently represented Australia at the Badminton World University Championships and has also represented Victoria in multiple national competitions. She is part of the high performance program with Badminton Australia, and is currently ranked in 201 in the world. Off the court, she is in her first year of studying a Bachelor of Applied Science and Master of Speech Pathology.

Emily Marotta

Emily Marotta is an international fencer, who has represented Australia on numerous occasions. Most recently, she achieved the best result by an Australian at the 2018 Open World Championships and won back to back Open National Titles. She is currently ranked second in the country for women's Foil and has been selected for the Senior Fencing team for the Commonwealth Fencing Championships. Emily is also about to complete her Bachelor of Applied Science and Master of Podiatric Practice.

Katerina Paul

Katerina Paul is an international cross country skier, competing on the FIS World Cup circuit and a member of the Australian Under-23 team. Kat was selected onto the shadow Olympic team for the PyeongChang Winter Olympics earlier this year, and achieved the highest qualification of any Australian at the senior FIS Euro Cup. Kat won the AUS/NZ Continental Cup Women's senior overall championship and her 5th National Championship Title in the Classic Sprint during the 2018 Australian season. Kat is studying a Bachelor of Business (Sport Management) part-time.

Sophie Taylor

Sophie Taylor is an Australian field hockey player in the Victorian Institute of Sport. Sophie is a member of the Australian women's national development squad and recently made her international hockey debut with the Hockeyroos in the Sompo Cup in Japan. Off-field, Sophie is a fourth year student studying Bachelor of Health Sciences and Master of Physiotherapy Practice. Sophie is currently away competing in the Australian Hockey League finals with the Victorian Vipers, and her dad Peter Taylor will receive the award on her behalf.

Academic and Sporting Excellence Award

Ruth Brophy

A Half-Blue recipient, Ruth represented Australia's senior women's team for the fourth time this year at the World Inline Hockey Championships. Ruth studies a Bachelor of Animal and Veterinary Biosciences and manages to maintain an overall course WAM of 90.6 when she's not protecting the goals. Ruth completed 7 subjects, all with A grades and had a WAM of 88.71 in the award period!

Sportswoman of the Year

Kelsey Griffin

An elite professional Basketballer, Kelsey has produced a remarkable career playing pro basketball all around the world, and has accumulated a long list of accolades to her stellar resume. Drafted at pick three in the 2010 WNBA draft, Kelsey played five seasons at Connecticut Sun in the WNBA. In 2012 Kelsey returned home to play for Bendigo Spirit, where she was part of two WNBL championships in 2013 & 2014 respectively, and won the Grand Final MVP in both of those victories. In 2015, Kelsey was awarded the WNBL defensive player of the year. Most recently, she represented Australia in the Opals basketball team at the 2018 Commonwealth Games on the Gold Coast. While off the court, she is a first year student studying a Master of Teaching (Secondary) at La Trobe's Bendigo campus.

Sportsman of the Year

Joshua Thornton

A 2018 Commonwealth Games triple Gold Medallist in the B6/7/8 Para Triples, Joshua Thornton thrived in his home Games on the Gold Coast in April. He has represented Australia multiple times in Lawn Bowls and in June finished runners up in the Australian Open 4's. Joshua devotes his time to coaching at the East Shepparton bowls club and is a die-hard sports enthusiast. Josh values his family and friends for assisting in his bowls career and is inspired by sporting hero Michael Jordan. It's no surprise Joshua studies a sports based degree, he's in his first year of Master of Sport Management here at La Trobe.