

## LEONGATHA LITTLE ATHLETICS CLUB PRESENTATION DAY

The Leongatha Little Athletics Club held its presentation day at the St Laurence Primary School gymnasium last Saturday, recognising the achievements of young athletes from around the district who participated in the 2010/11 season.

Recognition was paid to athletes from the Under 6 through to Under 16 age groups, all of whom put in fantastic track and field performances over the past five months.

Age Champion and Personal Best Champion trophies for each age group were awarded by Gippsland region chairperson Sarah Lilley, along with certificates for personal best performances over the season, and for representing the club in regional relay and track and field championships and last week's state track and field championships.

Gippsland region record certificates were also presented to Eleanor Patterson (high jump, 1.80m) and Wes Graeme (triple jump, 11.50m).

Wes has now won selection for the Victorian Under 13 Team initial squad, with the final team to compete in the Australian Little Athletics Championships in Sydney next month. Club vice-president David Green has also been appointed Victorian team jumps coach for the fifth consecutive season.

The club's first life membership was awarded to Geoff Coulter, who has been involved with Leongatha Little Athletics since 1995 in a wide range of roles from coaching and school education to club president, regional delegate and regional competition director, to name just a few.

Geoff and wife Bev, who has also made a significant contribution to the club over many years, continue as committee members and official starters at weekend competitions and other events.

A special trophy was also presented to young athlete Rachel O'Loughlin for 10 years' membership of the club.

Age Champions for 2010/11 are: Under 6 Girls – Nevada Crimp; Under 6 Boys – Eddie Colwill; Under 7 Girls – Jemma Standfield; Under 7 Boys – Mitch Molloy; Under 8 Girls – Merrin Giles; Under 8 Boys – Ryan Gilliam; Under 9 Girls – Cobie Standfield; Under 9 Boys – Alfred Herbert; Under 10 Girls – Ruby Martin; Under 10 Boys – Shannon Kennedy; Under 11 Girls – Amber Standfield; Under 11 Boys – Brett Thorson; Under 12 Girls – Lily Akers; Under 12 Boys – Joel Norton; Under 13 Girls – Gemma Martin; Under 13 Boys – Wes Graeme; Under 14 Boys – Craig McCormack; Under 15 Girls – Mikaela Witherow; Under 15 Boys – Mitchell Green; Under 16 Boys – Michael Green; Under 16 Girls – Shelley McCormack.

PB Champions for 2010/11 are: Under 6 Girls – Brielle Tudor, Tiffany-Blossom Matheson; Under 6 Boys – Hayden Barnes; Under 7 Girls – Emma Trease; Under 7 Boys – Alexander Battersby, Luke Marshman, Benjamin Peace; Under 8 Girls – Niamh Martin; Under 8 Boys – Luke Boyle, Sullivan Herbert, Maverick Matheson, Corey Whelan; Under 9 Girls – Maddy Birrell; Under 9 Boys – Rory Hanks, Ryan Frank; Under 10 Girls – Hayley Wight; Under 10 Boys – Mitchell Bentvelzen, Nicholas Matheson; Under 11 Girls – Shannon Mellings, Sara Riseley; Under 11 Boys – Rohan Baudinette; Under 12 Girls – Christine Byrne, Emily Cashin; Under 12 Boys – Harrison McLean; Under 13 Girls – Georgia Riseley; Under 13 Boys – Julian Patterson; Under 15 Girls – Olivia Cope, Eleanor Patterson; Under 16 Boys – Tom O'Loughlin.

The club also used the presentation day to thank the involvement of all parents and supporters in helping and encouraging the young athletes on Saturday competition meetings, with the club unable to operate effectively without the assistance and enthusiasm from all involved.

The club would love to hear from anyone interested in becoming a general committee member or with helping out in other ways. For more information, please contact club secretary Lyndall Green on 5662 3637.

The club's cross country championship will be held in July. Details will be posted on the club's website in the coming weeks.

EDITOR'S NOTE:

PHOTO CAPTIONS:

Top marks: Leongatha Little Athletics Club's Age Champions for 2010/11.

High achievers: Leongatha Little Athletics Club's Personal Best Champions for 2010/11.

Life membership: Geoff Coulter was awarded Leongatha Little Athletics Club's first-ever life membership.

For further information: Terry Martin – 0417 045 564

Ends