

**The Sports Excellence  
Scholarship Fund helps  
sporting dreams become  
a reality for Victorian  
students.**



2020 has been tough on many, especially on our young, as their academic, social and sporting lives were greatly disrupted and plans delayed with uncertain timeframes.

Whilst the SESF was not able to award scholarships in 2020, due to the cancellation of school sports, the SESF ramped up mentor and mentee activities to strengthen relationships and continue to give connection, focus and hope to our students.

Our students have emerged from the year with a renewed outlook for 2021, as they return to their training and competitions and once again focus on their sporting dreams.

Through the ongoing support of our fund partners, the SESF will continue its financial and mentoring support of these inspiring young Victorian students into 2021, and beyond.

## Sports Excellence Scholarship Fund Chair Report for 2020

The Sports Excellence Scholarship Fund invests in the future of Australian sport by supporting talented young athletes in the pursuit of their sporting dream. Now in its ninth year the SESF continued to grow its reach and profile in spite of the challenges of the Covid-19 year. Building on steps taken in 2019 the SESF now operates independently whilst still maintaining a strong relationship with School Sport Victoria (SSV), the vehicle through which our funding is channelled.

The SESF is an incorporated body with Deductible Gift Recipient (DGR) status.

The fund was not able to award any scholarships in 2020 as all school sport was cancelled. Instead we focused on a mentoring program for students who had previously been awarded scholarships. Guided by board member Nathan Burke the mentoring team was upskilled to support their mentees and careful governance was provided by adhering to the Child Safe policy, mentoring policy and working with children police checks.

I wish to thank and acknowledge the mentoring team for their support and guidance of the young athletes they engaged with this year:

Ashleigh Brennan – Olympian, Gymnastics

Josh Dunkley-Smith – Olympian, Rowing

Matt Haanappel OAM – Team Vic Alumni, Paralympian, Swimming

Kelly Hetherington – Commonwealth Games and World Championships, Athletics

Mack Horton – Team Vic Alumni, Olympian, Swimming

Steph Kelly – Team Vic Alumni, Australian Touch Football

Steve Moneghetti AM – Olympian, Athletics

Su Oh – Team Vic Alumni, Olympian, Golf

Brooke Stratton- Team Vic Alumni, Olympian, Athletics

Sophie Taylor – Team Vic Alumni, Australian Representative, Hockey

In 2020 the board took the decision to launch the SESF program nationally commencing in 2021. To achieve this, careful planning will be required and the need for increased sponsorships is vital.

I sincerely thank the financial supporters of the SESF for their continued investment in Australia's sporting future throughout this difficult year.

Each contributor to the fund has been recognised elsewhere in this document and also on our website, their support is greatly appreciated.

In closing, I wish to acknowledge the expert contribution and dedication of each board member:

Andrew Horton – Executive Committee / Deputy Chairperson

Nick Mooney – Executive Committee / Executive Director

Steve Gatt – Executive Committee / Treasurer

Bridget Lodge – Executive Committee / Marketing

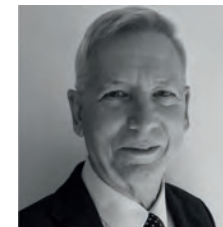
Nathan Burke – Committee Member

Wally Tench – Committee Member

Warwick Waters - Committee Member

Adele Fox – School Sport Victoria Representative

Pieter Van Pinxteren – School Sport Victoria Representative



**Peter Wright**

Chairperson  
Sports Excellence  
Scholarship Fund

## How in 2020 the SESF has impacted emerging athletes.

1.

We have intensified our focus on our Alumni and strengthened relationships between mentors and mentees during the Covid-19 delay of sport.

2.

The SESF finalised best practice methodology and good governance to secure the future of the fund and to support future scholarships.

3.

The SESF worked with our many supporters, understanding the challenges faced by them in this time and have emerged with strengthened relationships, for the future success of the fund.



14 October 2020

Cricket Victoria and Sports Excellence Scholarship Fund Partnership.

### CRICKET VICTORIA (CV) EXTENDS ITS PARTNERSHIP WITH THE SPORTS EXCELLENCE SCHOLARSHIP FUND (SESF)

Cricket Victoria has extended its partnership with the SESF. A foundation member of the SESF (2012), Cricket Victoria has been a key supporter of the work of the SESF in supporting emerging Victorian Cricket talent.

John Watkin, General Manager Community Cricket & Key Stakeholders Cricket Victoria, was glowing in his praise of the work the SESF does, “CV shares SESF’s vision to provide access and support to all girls and boys from across Victoria. We are proud to be a foundation supporter of the SESF. We love the support they provide for emerging primary and secondary cricketers from around the state who make Team Vic state teams. The financial support they provide, along with the mentoring and ongoing education opportunities for their alumni and parents is highly valued by the CV board and broader cricketing fraternity.”

SESF Executive Director Nick Mooney added, “CV have been a fabulous supporter of the SESF since day one. They have seen the opportunities we bring to rural and regional students as well to students from right around metropolitan Melbourne. Their support of the SESF is highly regarded by the SESF board and by cricketing families from right across the state.”



## 2020 Mentor Program

In 2020, while we may not have been able to support young people out on the sporting field, we are incredibly grateful to have delivered a mentor program, ensuring students were able to develop their skill set off the field, particularly during these challenging times.

We thank all our mentors for their time over the year. Their ongoing support of their mentees has proven invaluable.

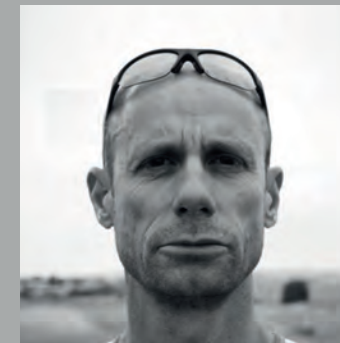
We reflect with three of our mentors, Ashleigh Brennan, Steve Moneghetti and Brooke Stratton.

## A word from our Mentors



### **Ashleigh Brennan - Summer Zu (diving)**

Although this year has been challenging for Summer as she hasn't been able to train or compete in the pool, it has given her time to slow down, have a better balance with school and sport and be prepared for Year 7 next year while pursuing her personal goals.



### **Steve Moneghetti - Lily Eldridge (swimming)**

Whilst it has been a challenging year due to Covid-19 we have kept in contact via video calls regularly and have developed a strong relationship where I feel I am providing positive strategies for Lily's ongoing development.



### **Brooke Stratton - Kirra Wright (track)**

Kirra has been willing to learn as much as she can during our mentoring sessions and I value her being able to be open and honest with me. Kirra's willingness to learn and her eagerness to better herself shows her strong desire towards reaching her athletic potential.

## A super Sunday with Mack Horton.



Following a year of virtual catch ups, SESF mentor and Olympic Gold Medalist, Mack Horton, was finally able to meet his mentees Josh and Nicolette Wight in person; a highlight to round out the year.



“A huge thank you to you all; Mack, Nick and Henry for an awesome morning at Warragul! Josh and Nicolette are floating on air, and enjoyed their special day immensely! Thank you for creating this exceptional mentoring program and the wonderful Sports Excellence Scholarship Fund that has given so much to our family!”

(Josh and Nicolette’s mum)



## Walking the talk....



SESF Mentors L to R  
Su Oh, Josh Dunkley-Smith, Brooke Stratton,  
Matthew Haanappel, Ashleigh Brennan,  
Steve Moneghetti.

## The SESF Alumni

*Gabby Newton*



*Changkuoth Jiath*



*Monique Conti*



*Sue Oh (L)*



*Liam McLure*



## The SESF Alumni

The SESF loves to see their alumni flourishing on and off the field, and in a year that presented more hurdles than ever before, the SESF was extremely proud to see their alumni thriving despite the circumstances.

2020 saw 2015 scholarship recipient Madison Prespakis (Carlton FC) win the AFLW Best and Fairest award at just 19 years old. Also competing in the AFLW season were fellow SESF scholarship recipients Monique Conti (2014 recipient), who took out the Richmond Football Club's inaugural AFLW Best and Fairest, and Gabi Newton (2016 recipient) of the Western Bulldogs.

2016 Scholarship recipient Linley Ooi is loving her life in the University of Oklahoma's golf program, having entered her sophomore year in 2020.

Off the field, 2015 scholarship recipients, Liam McLure, continued his Exercise & Sport Science studies at the Southern Institute of Technology in Invercargill on New Zealand's South Island after choosing to study abroad and gain valuable life and work experience.

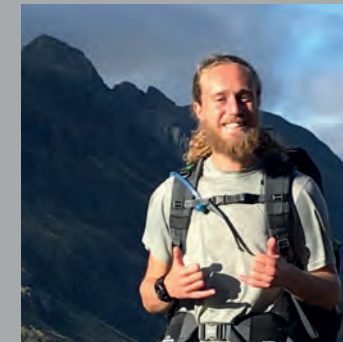
To all of our SESF alumni who have been achieving great things throughout 2020, we wish them all the best heading into 2021 and beyond.

## Focus on SESF Alumni



### **Madison Prespakis:**

With all the costs my parents were having to cover for the all the sport my siblings and I were participating in, the scholarship I received from the SESF took a great strain off my family and enabled me to be a part of the Team Vic program without the added financial pressures.



### **Liam McLure:**

A big thank you to the SESF for providing me with this scholarship and for providing me with such an amazing opportunity and experience! [click for video](#)



### **Linley Ooi:**

My scholarship came at a fortunate time when my Dad fell ill, it was a great help and gave me the ability to compete. This experience and the SESF support led me to a full Golf Scholarship at the University of Oklahoma.



## SESF Timeline of Milestones

<b>2012</b>	3 Scholarships awarded. SESF Launch at University High School. Commencement of Alumni and Partner Education Annual Forum.
<b>2013</b>	8 Scholarships awarded. SESF partnered with Business Working with Education Foundation.
<b>2014</b>	20 Scholarships awarded. Partnership with Schools Connect Australia. Steve Hooker is appointed as first SESF Ambassador.
<b>2015</b>	14 Scholarships awarded. Partnership with Schools Connect Australia.
<b>2016</b>	22 Scholarships awarded. Partnership with Schools Connect Australia.

<b>2017</b>	34 Scholarships awarded. Deductible Gift Recipient status achieved.
<b>2018</b>	39 Scholarships awarded.
<b>2019</b>	45 Scholarships awarded. Launch of the new SESF website. SESF becomes an Incorporated Association.
<b>2020</b>	No Scholarships awarded due to Covid-19 disruption. Mentor program 2020 – 10 mentors / 10 mentees. First SESF Executive Director appointed (part time).
<b>2021</b>	Assessment of Scholarships based on reactivation of school sport. Continuation of mentoring program. Foundations built for national roll out and partnerships created.
<b>2022</b>	National roll out to commence.

A word from our partners.



“Our family are very pleased to support the SESF to enable talented young sports people have the opportunity to travel and compete for Victoria in National competitions. Being selected to represent Victoria as an individual or in a team sport is such a wonderful achievement and a platform to develop life skills, friendships and memories forever.”

Liz and Anthony Phillips  
The Phillips Foundation



“We first became aware of the SESF back in 2017 and we saw this as a great opportunity for us to assist young talented sports people compete for Victoria on the national platform. Working in sport we understand how sport can make a positive influence on young people and we wanted to help support and encourage their goals.”

DMC Sport

A big thank you to these supporting organisations.  
We couldn't do what we do without you.





We would welcome your support in  
providing more scholarships to  
outstanding young Australian athletes.

**Thank you.**

**Sponsorship Enquiries**  
Nick Mooney  
Executive Director  
0419 838 291  
ed@sesf.org.au

Level 7, 607 St Kilda Rd,  
Melbourne, Victoria, 3004



**Sports  
Excellence  
Scholarship  
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supporting young  
Victorian sports people.