

## **Girraween at State Relays Nov 14/15 2015 Blacktown International Sportspark Rooty Hill**

Last Saturday dawned wet and miserable as the rain bucketed down out at Rooty Hill for the 2015 edition of these State Relays. Nevertheless, this inclement weather did not deter Girraween's teams. This year whilst no medals were forthcoming, all Girraween's teams put in a mighty effort, with team-members often competing in events well above their age classification, injured or in events that were usually foreign to them, all to ensure that their friends had the opportunity to compete at these relays. It was a great achievement by all concerned.

Across the weekend there were a number of highlights. As a group, our younger athletes stepped up remarkably well across their events. The effort of Adriana and Renata Basic, Monica McRae and Jessica O'Brien in their 4x400m event was extraordinary considering they were well under the age classification, yet this did not deter them, a very fine performance by all the girls. The efforts of our young men in the 4x800m on Saturday were most eye-catching with Dylan Nagle running injured, yet you would not have known it by his effort, both Nathan Moffit who is a sprinter and Brendon Neich who is a thrower stepping up to the plate outside their comfort zone and the remarkable effort of Daniel O'Donnell who in his leg of the race, particularly over the last lap, showed a wonderful never-say-die attitude with his fighting performance. It won't be forgotten by those fortunate to see it. Four of these athletes in Dylan, Brendon, Nathan and Monica backed up again Sunday for another fine effort in their perspective events. This is never easy, yet they all performed admirably. The boys were joined by Liam O'Brien in the 4x400m event on Sunday and it was fine effort by Liam who stepped up into an age group well above his normal age classification and it was wonderful to see him giving his all. The future of Girraween Athletics Club is in fine hands indeed, if the performance of our junior athletes at this event is any guide. The club is very fortunate to such a fine group of young athletes coming through.

Our senior athletes did remarkably well over the weekend. Given the atrocious conditions early Saturday morning, the effort of Raminder Singh, Michael Grogan, Claudio Corvalan and Stephen O'Donnell in the Javelin was pretty inspiring in the way that they stuck to their tasks. These four gentlemen also backed up again on Sunday for the Shot Put with another fine performance. The Women's 4x800m team put in a very competitive effort with Lisa Grant, Jean Davis Katrina Russell and Cristina Sotomayor all running strongly. It was great to see one of Girraween's icon's in Lisa Grant make a welcome return to these relays after an absence of some years. Lisa's effort showed us all why she is so highly valued by her team-mates. Cristina Sotomayor enjoyed her experience thoroughly, given that it

was her debut at this type of event and we have it on good authority that she is already looking forward to 2016. It would be remiss of me not to mention the efforts of our men's sprint relays across the weekend. Rob Giesler, Claudio Corvalan, Michael Grogan and Roger Mar took part in the 4x100m on Saturday and despite Roger's misadventures with the baton at the last change over, they still managed to complete the race still standing which was the main thing. Rob, Claudio and Michael also backed up again on Sunday for the 4x200m event where they were joined by Wayne Thurlow and they were most competitive, only a small margin behind the top placegetters. This was a fine effort by all concerned.

A big thank, you to all the parents who ventured out on Saturday and Sunday to support their sons and daughters. This support was very much appreciated. Thanks also to our friends and other members who came out on both days to support their club-mates. This was a great gesture. Thanks also to all our athletes who competed over the weekend who all represented Girraween with distinction.

In conclusion, one last word of thanks to our summer competition manager and team manager over the weekend, Michael Grogan. With a little over two days before entries closed for this event, it appeared that for the first time since 2003 when Girraween resumed competing at these relays, that Girraween would have no teams due to various factors which would have been incredibly sad. However, Michael managed to organise in a very short space of time nine teams which was testament to his organisational abilities. He also did a fine job co-ordinating our teams over the weekend dealing with any last minute changes with a minimum of fuss. So thanks Michael on behalf of all at Girraween for all your work with our teams at this event. Results follow:

### **14-11-15**

#### **Men's Javelin Throw Masters**

Raminder Singh

Michael Grogan

Claudio Corvalan

Stephen O'Donnell 90.15m 5th

#### **Women's 4 x800m 160+**

Lisa Grant

Jean Davis

Katrina Russell

Cristina Sotomayor 12:55.89 4<sup>th</sup>

**Women's 4 x 400m U16**

Adriana Busic

Monica McRae

Renata Busic

Jessica O'Brien 5:12.26 5th

**Men's 4 x 100m 160+**

Rob Giesler

Claudio Corvalan

Michael Grogan

Roger Mar 65.10 6th

**Men's 4 x 800m U16**

Dylan Nagle

Nathan Moffitt

Brendon Neich

Daniel O'Donnell 10:52.11 6th

**15-11-15****Men's 4 x 400m U16**

Dylan Nagle

Nathan Moffitt

Brendon Neich

Liam O'Brien 5:04.50 7<sup>th</sup>**Men's 4 x 100m U16 Heat 1**

Dylan Nagle

Nathan Moffitt

Brendon Neich

Monica McRae 53:26 6th

**Men's 4 x 200m 160+**

Rob Giesler

Claudio Corvalan

Michael Grogan

Wayne Thurlow 1:54.83 5th

**Men's Shot Put Masters**

Raminder Singh

Claudio Corvalan

Michael Grogan

Stephen O'Donnell 29.97m 7th

Michael Christie

(GAP)