



PRESIDENT'S AWARD – SPEECH BY ASA CHAIR AND PRESIDENT JANE RUSSO

This is a relatively new award with only 2 past recipients. The Award acknowledges outstanding service to the Athletic Community in South Australia and is selected by the President of the Athletics SA Board. It's about recognising someone who has gone above and beyond, demonstrating exceptional service to athletics. I've had some help from the Staff and the Board in determining possible candidates but ultimately, I made the decision based on the following: First impressions count, and my first introduction to this person, they impressed.

One of the things that is most striking about this person is their passion for the sport of athletics. This passion drives them and is a significant motivational force for those around them. This person has provided advice and worked in the areas of sponsorship, business development, competitions, volunteerism, clubs, and governance and has been an asset to the sport for more than 20 years.

A life member, this person insists on paying their annual registration fee to support the sport they love. A previous President of Athletics South Australia - a position held for more

than 10 years. As President, this person worked tirelessly. The volume of work that this person undertook as President was phenomenal and their work ethic and willingness to complete tasks for the office team is unparalleled. A committee member and coach of the Saints Athletic Club. They worked incredibly hard to increase membership numbers and provide an opportunity for young people to participate in athletics.

Is the Chair of the City-Bay foundation. A Team Manager of the Synergy league, and financially contributed support for the new initiative. A volunteer on the ASA Track and Field Committee, bringing brilliant ideas for new ways to improve IT within the athletics competition with online results and data.

Always willing to give up their time so readily and is always smiling and promoting the sport of athletics with a happy demeanour. You will find them out on the track every Saturday setting up hurdles week after week.

Their contribution to the sport is far reaching and will have a long term positive impact on the future of athletics in SA. Considered one of the unsung heroes of athletics and sport in general, and an asset to athletics in South Australia. This person showed me that they are willing to listen and are open to new concepts.

This person is.....Tony Keynes. Congratulations.