

2016 Merbein & District Community Bank 97.9 Sunraysia 97.9 Triple M . Northern Mallee Sports Star Gala Awards Evening Sports Star Newsletter Supplement

The 2016 Merbein & District Community Bank Sunraysia 97.9 Triple M Northern Mallee Sports Star Gala Awards evening was held at the Mildura Club Da Vinci on Friday 10th February, 2017 on a very hot evening. With 300 people in attendance Bill Sauer was again the MC extraordinaire for the evening interviewing the "Sporting Stars" as well as entertaining the audience.

After presenting the Masters, Junior Encouragement, Senior Team, Junior Team, Club, Coach, Administrator, Disability, Aboriginal and Volunteer local motor cycle speedway legend Leigh Adams spoke of his journey in motorcycle speedway racing.

Leigh left home in 1988 at sixteen years of age to travel to England to chase his motorcycle speedway racing dream. Over his career he won the U21 Australian title, U21 World as well as the pairs events.

Leigh travelled extensively throughout England and Europe chasing all the motorcycle speedway events. In 2007 he found a sports psychologist with whom he gelled with and Leigh would send him a report after each meet. He learnt how to "park the bad and get on with the good". In that year he obtained second in the World Championships.

Overall in his career he won 10 Australian Championship. At the height of his career he had 115 meetings in a year. With all the travel he felt burnt out and decided it was the right time to retire

Retirement was to have fun until he went to the Finke Desert Rally where on a practice lap he had his motorcycle accident which has now left him in a wheelchair. He does not recall his accident but stated that it has been a bigger battle than competition riding. He keeps himself busy in his shed each day building motorcycles and receives a lot of joy seeing his bikes being raced.

He now has taken up kart racing along with his son. This is a story of resilience.

With the final segment of the evening being the announcement of the 2016 Merbein & District Community Bank Sunraysia 97.9 Triple M Northern Mallee Sports Star of the Year being awarded to the ever popular Greg Rhodes nominated by the Mildura Golf Club..

Greg was presented with the Peter Manolas Trophy as the 2016 Merbein & District Community Bank Sunraysia 97.9 Triple M Northern Mallee Sports Star of the Year.



Greg Rhodes - 2016 Merbein & District Community Bank Sunraysia 97.9 Triple M Northern Mallee Sports Star of the



2016 Merbein & District Community Bank Sunraysia 97.9 Triple M Northern Mallee Sports Star of the Year - Monthly Winners



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Mallee Sports Assembly congratulates all nominees and winners of the Sports Star awards.

The category winners on the night were:

Telstra Business Centre (Mildura) Master Award Greg Rhodes - Golf
Lifestyle Plus Junior Encouragement Award – Georgina Graham - Archery
Viatek Senior Team – Ouyen United Football Netball Club—Senior Team
Leda Ag Junior Team – Northern Stars Equestrian Team
Autosynergy Club Award - Mildura Clay Target Gun Club
Mildura Waves - Coach Award – Patrick Irwin - Football (AFL)
Sunraysia Daily Administrator Award – Bridget Caminitii – Equestrian
Rural Access Athlete with a Disability – Cosi Cirillo – Football (Soccer)/
Department of Justice & Regulation– Aboriginal Award - Derek Eggmolesse-Smith - Football (AFL)
Mildura Rural City Council Volunteer Award – Albert Mitchell - Cricket

Sporting Blues – Montana Beruldsen, Campbell Griffiths, Brodie Jackson, Ethan Zrna, Mebal Kadian - Athletics



Sporting Blues Winners - Todd, Montana and Mebal with Kim Mayne



Master Athlete – Ray Pratt —
Telstra Business Centre Mildura
and Greg Rhodes



Junior Encouragement Winner - Georgina Graham & Life Style Plus representative Tayla Farlie



Senior Team Award—Andrew Jardine
Ouyen United Football Senior Team and
Viatek representative Dean Murtagh



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**Junior Team— Northern Stars-
Matilda Lyons
and Leda Ag representa-**



**Club Award - Mildura Clay
Target Gun Club Wayne Shad-
dock and Gayle Danson repre-
senting Autosynerygy**



**Coach Award - Patrick Irwin and
Mildura Waves representative
Rod Simms**



**Administrator Award—Bridget
Caminiti and Sunraysia Daily
representative**



**Disability Award—Cosi Cirillo
and Rural Access representative
Jenny Snadden.**

**Aboriginal Award - Derek
Eggmolesse-Smith and Dept of
Justice & Regulation represen-
tative Patsy Doolan.**



**Volunteer Award—Albert Mitchell
and Mayor Glenn Milne - Mildura
Rural City Council**





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