

2021
*Award
OF
Excellence*

30TH YEAR ANNIVERSARY
VICTORIAN INSTITUTE OF SPORT

THANK YOU & CONGRATULATIONS

From a fledgling organisation in 1990 to one that has gained great respect nationally and internationally through the achievement of our athletes and contribution of our high performance experts, we are delighted to acknowledge our 30 years of history.

As past and present Chairs of the Board of the Victorian Institute of Sport we are proud to celebrate not only the wonderful achievement of our Olympic and Paralympic athletes from the Tokyo Games, but each and every athlete and person who has contributed to Victorian and Australian high performance sport. From our very first World Champions, the Oarsome Foursome in 1990 to an emerging athlete who is commencing their journey supported by our State and National Sporting Organisation partners.

Over the past 30 years, the VIS has led the way by being the first to support athletes with a disability (now known as Parasport), developing programs around our motto of “success in sport and life” ensuring athletes had a career and education plan (Performance Lifestyle) and encouraging athletes as role models through our sports persons in schools program (Be Fit. Be Well).

Congratulations and thank you to each and every one of you for your contribution to our wonderful organisation.

Sincerely,

Nataly Matijevic (VIS Chair 2017-Current), Nicole Livingstone OAM (2016-17), Kate Palmer AM (2010-16), Steve Moneghetti AM (2001-10) and Graham Duff AM (Decd) (1990-01)

VIS CHAIRS

OUR PARTNERS

MAJOR PARTNERS



PARTNERS



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2XU RISING STAR

Award Finalists

The 2XU Rising Star Award is presented to an athlete who is eligible to compete in their sport's 'age grade' categories (maximum age U/23) who has achieved outstanding sporting results during the year, complemented by demonstrable success in other areas of their life.

Brendon Smith

Swimming

Col Pearce

Para-Swimming

Isis Holt

Para-Athletics

Jaryd Clifford

Para-Athletics

This award is proudly presented by our partner, 2XU.

2XU

WINNER:

JARYD CLIFFORD



JARYD CLIFFORD | PARA-ATHLETICS

Jaryd Clifford is the recipient of the 2XU Rising Star Award after a tremendous few years on the track.

Legally blind, the 22-year-old produced one of the most courageous campaigns of distance running by a Paralympian in Tokyo, winning a medal in each of his three events; silver in both the Marathon and the 5000m, and a bronze in the 1500m. At the time his devastation was palpable- gold eluded him- but he has since realised that disappointment and immense pride can coexist.

Away from the track, Jaryd is studying a Bachelor of Law & Justice at the University of Melbourne and is a passionate advocate of the Paralympic movement.

GOLD

2019 World Championships
1500m T13- **World Record**

2019 World Championships
5000m T13

2021 Canberra Track Classic
1500m T12- **World Record**

2021 Tokyo Qualifying Race
Marathon T12- **World Record**

SILVER

2020 Tokyo Paralympics
5000m T13

2020 Tokyo Paralympics
Marathon T12

BRONZE

2020 Tokyo Paralympics
1500m T13

PARA ATHLETE

Award Finalists

The Para Athlete Award is presented to the Para athlete who has achieved outstanding sporting results during the year, complemented by demonstrable success in other areas of their life.

Dylan Alcott AO
Wheelchair Tennis

Emily Petricola OAM
Para-Cycling

Lina Lei OAM
Para-Table Tennis

Qian Yang OAM
Para-Table Tennis

WINNER: DYLAN ALCOTT AO



DYLAN ALCOTT AO | WHEELCHAIR TENNIS

The winner of the Para Athlete Award is long term VIS scholarship holder Dylan Alcott AO.

Alcott declared 2021 was going to be his fourth and final Paralympic appearance, finishing his Paralympic campaigns with four gold and two silver medals from his tennis and basketball competitions. He successfully defended his wheelchair Quad Paralympics singles gold medal in Tokyo and won silver with Quad Doubles partner and fellow VIS scholarship holder, Heath Davidson.

The wheelchair tennis ace and well-recognised disability advocate, also became the first man in any form of tennis to win a Golden Slam – all four major titles and a Paralympic gold medal in the same calendar year.

GOLD

2020 Australian Open- Singles & Doubles

2020 Roland Garros- Singles

2021 Australian Open- Singles & Doubles

2021 Roland Garros- Singles

2021 Wimbledon- Singles

Tokyo Paralympics- Singles

2021 US Open
Singles - **Golden Slam**

SILVER

2020 US Open- Singles

Tokyo Paralympics- Doubles

2021 US Open- Doubles

COACH AWARD

Winners

The Coach Awards are presented to the most deserving athlete in each of the VIS' sporting programs within the calendar year. This year will be the second time that athletes from the Individual Scholarship Program and the Future Talent Program will receive a Coach Award.

Laura Peel

Aerial Skiing Program

Nicholas Hum

Athletics Program

Emily Petricola OAM

Cycling Program

Nina Phan

Diving Program

Aiden Didone

Golf Program

Josh Simmonds

Hockey - Men's Program

Aisling Utri

Hockey - Women's Program

Taylah Brown

Netball Program

Alexandra Viney

Rowing Program

Tess Lloyd

Sailing Program

Col Pearce

Swimming Program

Penny Smith

Shooting Program

Shae Graham

Individual Scholarship Program

Kipp Smith

Future Talent Program



JOIN OUR

Alumni

Continuing the athletic journey of "Success in Sport and Life", the VIS Alumni will aim to engage our former athlete and staff community. We will connect and support each other, and to pay it forward - guided by our VIS values of Excellence, Courage, Community, Simplicity, Success and Passion.



OPEN UNIVERSITIES AUSTRALIA PERFORMANCE LIFESTYLE

Award Finalists

Awarded to the athlete who has achieved personal excellence in their studies, career ambitions, and/or work setting whilst pursuing their dual sporting career.

This award epitomises the VIS motto of 'Success in Sport and Life'.

Elena Galiabovitch

Shooting

Gabrielle Coffey

Netball

Nicholas Hum

Para-Athletics

This award is proudly presented by our partner, Open Universities Australia (OUA)



WINNER:

ELENA GALIABOVITCH



ELENA GALIABOVITCH | SHOOTING

Dr Elena Galiabovitch has been awarded the Open Universities Australia (OUA) Performance Lifestyle Award for achieving success in her working life and with her sporting ambitions. Galiabovitch epitomises the VIS' motto of 'Success in Sport and Life.'

For the past 2 years Elena has been working on two frontlines. Dr Galiabovitch has been busy working on Melbourne's medical front line, caring for some of the most seriously ill COVID-19 patients. While as an elite athlete living in Victoria's extended lockdowns, she was forced to adapt, and then re-adapt her training remotely, shooting via a simulator.

Despite the long training hours and unpredictable workload, Elena was rewarded with her second Olympic berth in Tokyo, where she competed in the women's 10m Air Pistol and the 25m Pistol events.

She was also recognised for her frontline efforts, chosen by the International Olympic Committee (IOC) to carry the Olympic flag at the Opening Ceremony – an honour she describes as the "greatest in her sporting career."

SARAH TAIT SPIRIT

Award Finalists

The Sarah Tait Spirit Award recognises the athlete who most encompasses the spirit of the VIS. This athlete has demonstrated courage, commitment and persistence to achieve their sporting goals, whilst showing the ability to inspire and bring out the best in others, engage with and bring pride to their community.

Anabelle Smith

Diving

Elizabeth (Lizzy) Watson

Netball

Rachael Lynch

Hockey

WINNER:

ANABELLE SMITH



ANABELLE SMITH | DIVING

Like the Award's namesake, Anabelle Smith is an inspiration in life as well as diving and is the recipient of the very special Sarah Tait Spirit Award.

The triple Olympian is one of the most giving athletes within the Australian sporting community and will always put her hand up to give back to her sport and the community in general to inspire the next generation of athletes and leaders.

Hidden beneath her bright, bubbly and unassuming demeanour, Smith is an extremely tough, gritty and resilient athlete. To be able to handle everything

that has been thrown her way in the last two years, from cancelled events to several interstate relocations, has been nothing short of remarkable, and she always continues to do so with a positive mindset on life.

Smith throughout her career has been involved in various committees shaping Australian elite sport alongside public speaking initiatives and ambassadorial roles with various charities and companies.

In addition, Smith has also managed to complete a Bachelor of Exercise and Sport Science at ACU and has coached at various schools across Melbourne over the last ten years.

AWARD OF EXCELLENCE

Finalists

The Award of Excellence (AOE) is the Pinnacle of VIS Awards and is awarded to the athlete who has achieved outstanding sporting results at major events during the year, while contributing to the promotion and development of their sport and/or making a significant contribution to society beyond pure sporting performance.

Emily
PETRICOLA
PARA-CYCLING



Dylan
ALCOTT
WHEELCHAIR TENNIS

Women's
FOUR
ROWING



JOINT WINNER:
DYLAN ALCOTT AO



DYLAN ALCOTT AO | WHEELCHAIR TENNIS

For the third time in our 31-year history we have joint winners of the coveted Award of Excellence, with Tokyo gold medallists Dylan Alcott AO and rowers Lucy Stephan OAM, Jessica Morrison OAM and Rosie Popa OAM

Long term VIS scholarship holder Alcott declared 2021 was going to be his fourth and final Paralympic appearance, finishing his Paralympic campaigns with four gold and two silver medals from his tennis and basketball competitions. He successfully defended his wheelchair Quad Paralympics singles gold medal in Tokyo and won silver with Quad Doubles partner and fellow VIS scholarship holder, Heath Davidson.

The wheelchair tennis ace and well-recognised disability advocate, also became the first man in any form of tennis to win a Golden Slam – all four major titles and a Paralympic gold medal in the same calendar year.

Alcott is the sixth VIS athlete to be named Award of Excellence winner for a second time, having also won in 2015. Alcott was also awarded the VIS' Para Athlete Award for 2021.

- GOLD**
2020 Australian Open- Singles & Doubles
2020 Roland Garros- Singles
2021 Australian Open- Singles & Doubles
2021 Roland Garros- Singles
2021 Wimbledon- Singles
Tokyo Paralympics- Singles
2021 US Open Singles - **Golden Slam**
- SILVER**
2020 US Open- Singles
Tokyo Paralympics- Doubles
2021 US Open- Doubles

JOINT WINNER:
WOMEN'S FOUR



LUCY STEPHAN OAM, JESSICA MORRISON OAM & ROSIE POPA OAM | ROWING

Victorian Institute of Sport scholarship holders Lucy Stephan OAM, Jessica Morrison OAM and Rosie Popa OAM were three of the four members that won gold in the Women's Coxless Four event at the Tokyo Olympic Games. As a result of their incredible feat, they've been acknowledged as joint winners of the 2021 Award of Excellence.

The 2020 Games saw the return of the Women's Four event to the Olympic rowing program after a 30-year absence. Australia topped the podium after narrowly holding off the Netherlands by less than half a second to win gold with a time of 6:15.37 — an Olympic record — while Ireland came third.

Stephan and Morrison were both part of the Women's Eight crew who received a late call up for the 2016 Rio Olympics, and have since used their experiences to help lead the Australian rowing team. Popa complimented the team nicely, making her Olympic debut at Tokyo, after a stress fracture prevented her from being selected for Rio.

- GOLD**
2020 Tokyo Olympic Games
Women's Four



The Official 2021 Award of Excellence Event Program

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