

ESPERANCE DISTRICT FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION

Statement by Member for Roe

MR P.J. RUNDLE (Roe — Deputy Leader of the Opposition) [12.50 pm]: The Esperance District Football Association recently celebrated the end of its 2023 season by recognising the efforts of players, teams and umpires during the year. Esperance Football Club midfielder Richard Bourne was awarded the Hepburn Medal for the senior men's league, with a Bulldogs teammate the runner-up. The Hepburn Medal was not the only honour bestowed upon Bourne, who was also deemed to be the association's Footballer of the Year. Gibson Football Club women's player Rani Smart won her second fairest and best medal in a three-year period, taking home the Brett Crawford Medal. Her club colleagues Jacob Barber and Regan Mott won similar accolades for the A-reserves and colts grades respectively. Mott was awarded the McArthur Medal, while Barber was presented with the Frank Murray Medal by its namesake, Frank Murray. The Paddy Rule Medallist was Matt Harding, the Ted Young Medallist was Brett Trocinski, and Umpire of the Year was David McGrinder. Newtown–Condungup Football Club player Oakley Wallace received the Graeme "Ozzie" Ainsworth Memorial Shield for the best player in the association under the age of 21. Volunteer Club Person of the Year awards went to Sophie Hawke for Esperance, Greg Curnow for Gibson, Shane Liddelow for Newtown–Condungup and Chris Cassam for Ports.

The strength of sporting clubs in places like Esperance reflects the role of sport in the community. A sense of community is strengthened by gatherings for events like these awards, and resilience is fostered by the bonds that are encouraged on and off the field.