

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 its 2023 season and recognised the efforts made by players, teams and umpires during the year.

Esperance Football Club midfielder Richard Bourne was named the Hepburn medallist for the senior men's league, with his Bulldogs teammate the runner-up. The Hepburn medal was not the only honour bestowed on 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-reserve and colts grades respectively. Mott was awarded the McArthur medal, and 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 the umpire of the year was David McGrinder. Newtown–Condingup Football Club player Oakley Wallace received the Graeme "Ozzie" Ainsworth memorial shield for the best player in the association under the age of 21 years. Other medals presented were for the volunteer club person of the year awards, which went to Sophie Hawke of Esperance, Greg Curnow of Gibson, Shane Liddelow of Newtown–Condingup, and Chris Cassam of Ports.

The strength of sporting clubs reflects the role of sport in the community in places like Esperance, and the celebrations that come at the end of the season provide players and supporters with the chance to end their season on a high note.