

UNSW Judo News

June 2017

2017 NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

SUCCESS FOR UNSW JUNIORS



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The brand new Carrara Indoor Sports Stadium on the gold Coast was an excellent venue for this year's national championships. The event was the largest ever, attracting some 900 entries.

Unfortunately the organisers did not plan very well for the numbers, and as a result the first day dragged on, and on...finally finishing around 11.30pm! Many young kids who had arrived at 7.30am did not compete until the evening.

The result was some very frustrated and angry spectators, coaches and parents.

Having said that, the judo itself was fantastic, with high quality contests throughout the day.

UNSW had a strong contingent taking part across all age divisions, but clearly with the emphasis on the younger brigade. As had been the case often, our young athletes took on their role with gusto, and came away with the best results.

Among the youngsters (junior boys u12yrs) we had Josh Koenig, Manas Joshi, Ethan Carpenter and Elijah Raif. All boys fought hard, and Josh emerged from a tough 38kg category with bronze.

In the senior boys, Dylan Katz (36kg) and Ryan Koenig (45kg) successfully defended the titles they won last year. Both boys showed dynamic and effective judo in coming through their categories.

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ALL-JAPAN CHAMPIONSHIPS

Club HP coach JB made another pilgrimage this year to the home of judo to watch the All-Japan Championships. This famous event, revered in Japan and held traditionally on the Emperor's birthday, is indeed something to see. This year Takeshi Ojitani repeated his result from last year, and thereby won selection to represent Japan at the 2017 World Championships in Budapest. The competition this year was spiced by the appearance of 73kg Rio Olympic champion Shohei Ono, but even his vast skills were not enough to overcome his 95kg opponent, and he lost out in golden score time after 10 gruelling and entertaining minutes. Ojitani's adversary in the final was Aaron Wolf, who at 100kg was rather dwarfed by Ojitani's 145kg but proved to be a worthy match, going down only by penalty after two minutes of golden score.

While in Japan JB took the opportunity to visit Shukutoku university with Nina to observe training.



Seen here are Hitoshi and Nina outside the Nippon Budokan Hall, and Ojitani and Wolf facing off in the final. Both showing the effects of a head clash.



NATIONALS Cont'd...



UNSW senior boys medallists:

**Dylan Nguyen
Ryan Koenig
Angus Hutcheon
Dylan Katz**

Well done boys!

In an all-UNSW final Dylan was pushed all the way by clubmate Angus Hutcheon, who has made great progress in the past year. Iakov Ivanets also fought hard in 45kg, but just missed a podium placing. In the 66kg, Dylan Nguyen showed his class to win all his fights by ippon and take gold.

In the cadet men's division, we had Jacob Angelou, Brendan Miu, Nick Leong, Will Crouch and Josh Devine. All our boys had some good wins, with Brendan and Josh in particular pulling off some spectacular throws. Sadly, none could snag any medals, the closest result being Jacob's fifth in 73kg.

Giorgia Goutzas showed she is getting back to her best after a long absence from competition, taking bronze in the 57kg with some determined fighting.

Our senior ranks were sadly depleted through retirements, injuries and absences. In the end we came away with two medals...Nina Takenaka's silver in 52kg, and Kiam Kelly's bronze in 57kg.

While our main interest was of course in our own club athletes, there were some fantastic fights to be seen. In particular, the men's 66kg category attracted a high quality field and a great deal of interest, with the likes of Nathan Katz, Toshi Nakamura, Ivo Dos Santos, Michael Valent and Vinnie Costanzo vying for top honours. After some fierce and absorbing fights, it was stylish Kai Png (WA) who edged out Nathan Katz in a golden score final match.



Giorgia makes sure the medal is real...

Then there was the 73kg, where dynamic young WA fighter Calvin Knoester broke through for his first senior national title with a lightning fast kataguruma vs Rio Olympian Jake Bensted. In the 81kg, Eoin Coughlan (VIC) took his revenge for his Oceania loss over young Anthony Kouros with a beautiful yoko tomoenage.

Head State coach Kylie Koenig, and assistants Ivica Pavlinic and Rob Maurency had a busy weekend preparing and supporting the athletes. The weekend once again provided a good opportunity to catch up with old friends, and for the club family to get together and enjoy each others' company. Thanks to the dedicated parents who made the trip north to support their kids.



Jacob gets some last minute tips from Ivica

INTER-VARSITY COMPETITION 21 May



The day was arranged as an introduction to competition for many of our newer members, and as preparation for the Australian University Games in August.

There were entries from UNSW, Sydney and the new UTS club, which made for a good day's competition. We were treated to some enterprising judo from the newcomers, with spectacular action, and terrific throws. UNSW winners in their categories were Eamonn, Brendan and Maricarmen. UNSW also came out winners of the concluding team event.

There was some good fighting from Chris, Sebastian, Kevin and Isabelle, which holds promise for the future.

A big tick to Heidi, Mel and Ivica for putting it together, and thanks to all those who helped out on the day. Signs are there will be a repeat later in the year.

UNSW PEOPLE AND EVENTS



It was a true “blast from the past” when Vince Wachter made a lightning visit to the club in June. Vince is a former UNSW student, and a past President of the club, having occupied the position back in the early 1990’s. Vince is, of course, Maricarmen’s father, and he was delighted to see her making such progress in judo. Now living in the USA, Vince was also very pleased to see that his old club was still prospering so many years later. It was also a great chance to renew old friendships from the earlier days of UNSW Judo. Naturally there was a “family” challenge in the wind, as Maricarmen took the opportunity to take on her dad in randori.



We gathered on 10 May to wish Dave Jordan well on his return to New Zealand. Dave had been with us for a couple of years, and in that time had shown considerable development, with good results in a number of competitions, and along the way receiving his black belt. He goes with our best wishes,

Another farewell, when we said goodbye to Daniela Brenner, who has been visiting us this past several months. Daniela will continue her holiday in Australia and SE Asia before returning to Germany.



Josie Choy gets her Brown belt in London.



It’s good to hear that our current UK expat club member is training, and even better that she has recently achieved her brown belt. We look forward to welcoming her back soon.

Central Coast Open

Once again this competition provided some good results for our younger brigade: Dylan Katz, Angus Hutcheon, Dylan Nguyen, Josh Devine in cadets. Indra wins again, gaining more points towards his dan grade. Bastien Calone had his first comp in Australia, finishing second in his 73kg category. Tin Pavlinic also finished second to club regular Alex Womersley in the +100KG.

Egor Grachev 1st
 Josh Koenig 1st
 Dylan Katz 1st
 Angus Hutcheon 2nd
 Dylan Nguyen 1st
 Josh Devine 1st Cadet men 60kg
 Indra Sadeli 1st 66kg
 Bastien Calone 2nd 73kg
 Tin Pavlinic 2nd +100kg

Shinsei Competition 28 May

This was a small event at Blacktown, but a great introduction to competition Judo, especially for first timers Valentino Garabaldi, Sava Putilin, Nicholas Parker and Valentino Garabaldi. They all did well, improving in each contest they had. The best throw was an O Goshi by Tyron Valenti for Ippon. All the boys showed great courage in the heat of battle and all are keen for the next comp.

Lucas Velasque 1st
 Nicholas Parker 2nd
 Tyron Valenti 1st
 Amaury Faures 1st
 Cian Bligh 2nd
 Mateo Lopez 1st
 Sava Putilin 2nd
 Manas Joshi 1st
 Valentino Garabaldi 2nd
 Egor Grachev 1st



MORE PICS FROM THE NATIONALS...



Jacob battling in cadet men 73kg



Kiarn (R) on the 57kg podium



Giorgia's huge uchimata in her bronze fight



Dylan Nguyen gold in senior boys 66kg



Josh Koeing bronze in junior boys 38Kg



...and Ryan gets a hug



Time to relax and unwind...the club dinner was a welcome chance to socialise with friends



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