

# UNSW Judo News

February 2019

## SYDNEY INTERNATIONAL SETS THE STANDARD

Great event...and good results for UNSW Athletes

This competition is earning a reputation as the premier event on the national calendar, and is a credit to Nic Lowe, Phil McDermott and their enthusiastic committee and volunteers. The venue looked very good, and the day went smoothly. With over 400 entries, the event was well managed all day and finished on time (...other States take note!) Strong teams from New Zealand and New Caledonia added a true International flavour to the competition.

UNSW had a strong junior contingent, and they were rewarded with some good results. Our seniors were a bit thin on the ground, due in part to a few late injury withdrawals.

It's always hard to single out individuals after such an event, but special mention must be made of Josh Koenig and Elijah Raif, who fought their hearts out in the senior boys 45kg...Josh edging out Elijah for bronze after some epic struggles. In similar vein Angus Hutcheon and Dylan Katz fought tenaciously in the cadet men 50kg for silver and bronze respectively. It was a family affair for the Carpenters, Samsonovs and Mius, all of whom finished with medals.



In the seniors, Amy Meyer (now representing SA) and Shaun McDougall both fought well, Shaun narrowly missing a place in the 100kg final in a spirited performance. Our new member from Mongolia, Zaagi, was forced into 73kg, but fought hard to just miss a medal. Club regular Alex Womersley also took a bronze in the category. Matt Peppas had some good wins, just missing a medal.

UNSW played a major part in the event, with some 30 entries across the board, members on the organising committee, and a large group of volunteers.

All in all, a very satisfying day for UNSW...and a special thanks to all of those club members who volunteered their services to make the event such a success.

More pics P4...

## NEW CALEDONIAN TEAM PAYS A VISIT



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## ACT INTERNATIONAL OPEN

A big weekend in Canberra on 16-17 February as the major competition series of the year got under way. UNSW had a strong contingent, with the emphasis on our younger brigade...our kids, cadets and juniors had a good outing, bringing back a swag of medals and some other satisfying results. Our seniors were thinner this year, but still had some good results.

In the boys divisions we had gold for Ivan Samsonov, with silver to Egor Grachev and Iakov Ivanets, with bronzes to Elijah Raif, Aidan Miu and Roman Samsonov. It was very pleasing to see how our boys performed against some strong opposition.



In their first outing as cadets, Dylan Katz and Angus Hutcheon both gave away weight to their opposition, but fought well. Dylan was outstanding to win gold, showing some nice variety and the ability to think under pressure. Angus wasn't so fortunate, but came away with some specifics to work on. Brendan Miu took a good bronze in cadets and also had his first hit out in junior men. Fresh from training in Japan, Ryan Koenig looked impressive in all his fights, just missing a medal in cadets, but taking a great silver in the older junior men division.

Unfortunately our seniors were thin on the ground, and their ranks diminished further when Paddy Kearney had to withdraw due to a knee

injury after winning his first. In the end we had a gold to Shaun McDougal in a sadly depleted 100kg, silver in 52kg for Josie Choy in her first comp in a long time, and a bronze to Amy Meyer in 48kg.



Matt Peppas started well in 81kg, but was stricken by cramps in his arms and finished out of a place, despite several good wins. Tom Azoury, who will soon be fighting under our UNSW banner had a good day to take bronze in 81kg.

**Congratulations to all our athletes who took part, and to the parents and supporters over the weekend.**



## NATIONAL COACHING TEAM HEROICS IN JAPAN

**Heroics from the AUS coaching team earns accolades from Japanese police.** Returning to their accommodation from a training session, the Australian junior team encountered a traffic accident; finding an elderly woman had been knocked off her bicycle. Jumping from their bus, our guys went into action immediately. Led by Kylie Koenig, whose training kicked in, they rendered first aid and ensured the woman was safe and ok until help arrived. Their actions brought praise from the Saitama police chief, who presented the officials with certificates of appreciation. Well done to the team!



The coaches receive their certificates from the Saitama police chief.



...and Kylie and Ben Donegan try out a Japanese police car!

## RYAN KOENIG SELECTED TO TRAIN IN JAPAN AND EUROPE

**Ryan Koenig in Japan.** Our Cadet athletes have started preparations for 2019 in Japan with a two weeks long training camp. The athletes completed their first session and were officially welcomed by our host in Saitama. This is the first event Australian athletes are benefiting from our partnership with Saitama Prefecture, Ageo City and Ina Town in Japan. During the two weeks the athletes trained in three different locations and participated in cultural exchange programs to learn more about Japanese culture and customs. The tour was organised by "our man in Japan" Hitoshi Kimura, who has been developing our relationship with Saitama Prefecture ahead of the Tokyo Olympics in 2020.

**...and in Europe!** Ryan has also been selected in a National junior squad to travel to Europe in March for training camps and competitions in Turkey and Croatia. Another important step on his judo journey...



# UNSW PEOPLE AND EVENTS

**Indra visits judo club in Nepal.** Indra Sadeli took time out during his epic trip to the Himalayas to stop in at a small judo club in Monjo... aptly called the Everest judo club, at almost 3000m, and only 20Km from the famous mountain. Indra didn't have time to train, but was vastly impressed with the work being done in this remote outpost of judo on the roof of the world.



**Judo Australia: "Futures" Camp AIS 17 – 20 January.** Following their successful competitive year in 2018, Dylan Katz and Ivan Samsonov were selected to attend this elite youth camp. Both boys thoroughly enjoyed their first experience of training at this level, along with around 50 young athletes from all over Australia. Reports from the coaches who conducted the camp were very complimentary on how our boys trained and contributed. Both have a bright future in the sport.



**O Week** A busy week of demonstrations and recruitment. Thanks to everyone who helped out. The club gained many expressions of interest and sign-ups for our beginners' courses.

**Training well and truly under way for 2019.** Our first session for the year was on 7 January. Then came the traditional Newaza and run on 13 January... a big group turned up and enjoyed brunch at the Coogee Pavilion. Numbers are building as people return from holidays and start school and university. Looking forward to a big year!

**21st Illawarra training camp** This camp has become the traditional start to the year for many athletes. The Illawarra International club, under Alan Broadhead and his team, always turns on a great weekend of hard judo, with athletes coming from all over Australia to attend. This year was no exception, with an impressive array of talent on display, and no shortage of good training partners.

It was a pity that the national body chose the same weekend to hold the "futures" camp for cadets, as this had an impact on the numbers of younger athletes. Bad planning on their part.

UNSW was well represented at the camp, with Ivica Pavlinic taking the leading coach role over the weekend. Paddy Kearney and Matt Peppas picked up some handy points towards their next grades in the competitions which were included in the program.



**Members in the news...** Rob Maurency has finally succumbed to a dodgy hip, necessitating surgery and putting him out of action for a while. Long time member and our Japanese friend Hitoshi Kimura, paid a flying visit for the ACT and Sydney Internationals. ...and welcome Tom Azoury from Canberra, who is spending a year studying at UNSW and is a welcome addition to the club.

## ...more pics from ACT



Ivica congratulates Shaun, and some of our juniors receive their medals in Canberra



## ...and Sydney International



UNSW members going about their various tasks during the Sydney International...

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