

UNSW Judo News

December 2019



A UNSW XMAS to EVERYONE!!

Friends gather for Traditional Party



Members, family and friends descended on unsuspecting Mamma Teresa's once again for the annual Xmas party on 14 December. MC Rob kept the evening moving with some fun quizzes (what was that country again??); Warren announced the club awards winners for the year and thanked all who have contributed; JB summarised the year, noting the emergence of the younger brigade now making their mark in competitions. Needless to say, there was much frivolity as we caught up with some people we haven't seen for a while...



Club President Indra welcomes guests

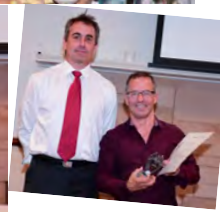
JFA (NSW) STATE DINNER 30 NOVEMBER



The State annual awards dinner is always a big night for judo in NSW, and a chance for all clubs to mix socially rather than slugging it out in competition. Our club was prominent on the occasion, with Kathy Meyer working behind the scenes to organise the event, Phil McDermott acting as MC, and State President Nic Lowe entertaining the group with a lively welcome and thanks to all who have worked so hard during the year.

In a large gathering, UNSW was well represented, and had finalists in many award categories, collecting several top prizes, including being named Community Club of the Year. Ivica Pavlinic was named Development Coach, Matt Carpenter Event Volunteer, Tara McDougal Most Promising referee. Young Hayden Fu received the Junior State squad coaches' award for his efforts in training. It was great to see the efforts of so many clubs from all over the State recognised, showing the depth of commitment far and wide.

The prestigious Sue Williams Award went to promising young athlete Sung Min (Leo) Lee of Zenbu club.



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UNISPORT NATIONALS

UNSW sent a large team to the Gold coast, hoping to repeat last year's victory. However, weakened a little by injuries and departures, the team was unable to repeat their dominant performance, but still had a good tournament. Our men's team fought well all day to take gold in the teams event, with our women getting bronze.

In the individuals, Nina Takenaka was classy to win her category. Indra (unfortunately representing Macquarie Uni!) also took gold, Tom and Jake Mc Mullen were equal bronze in 81kg, Nicola Le Borgne bronze in 73kg, Wanyu Lin took a great silver in the women's 52kg. Our remaining members all had strong outings, but missed medals. Haji, Henry, CK, Sarah, Pietro, Yahoo, Batyr, Jake 3, Paul, Jiahow Ng.

All up, some great fighting in the teams and individuals from some of our less experienced members – really proud of them for giving it a shot.

Despite some organisational shortcomings, everyone had some great fight experience and enjoyed themselves on the trip.



The AUG is always a mixture of business (L) and pleasure (below) and the Gold Coast provided the perfect setting...



NSW JUNIOR POINTS LEAGUE AND KYU GRADES

A good day out at this event, with several juniors and seniors making their competition debut. In the mons division we had Alexander Castles and Harvey Narushima, who came through for bronze in the 27kg. In the junior boys, Roman Samsonov easily took out his category, with newbie Jack Castles showing determination to come in second. In the senior boys/girls, Hayden Fu showed his skills to take gold, Ivan Samsonov silver and debutant Gabriel Leondaris bronze. Valerie Wu took bronze in her first outing. We were missing several seniors who were competing in the AUG, but still came away with some good results. In her first competition, Heather Anderson took gold in her category, and then repeated the effort in a combined division. Pia Nemanic also took top spot in a small category with two convincing wins. Our men faced some tough opposition... Dylan Katz fought well in his first senior competition, but couldn't manage a win. Per Tronnes, Freddie Liger and Billy Waters all had some wins to come away with medals. Unfortunately along the way Billy suffered a shoulder injury, which we hope isn't too serious.



A swag of medals for junior and senior UNSW athletes.

UNSW PEOPLE AND EVENTS

OJU Continental Open Perth 2-4 November

...a huge event, the biggest in Australia since the Sydney Olympics! The initial flurry of entries unfortunately shrank at the last minute to 66 Federations and just over 300 athletes. Nevertheless this was still a major event, with many of the world's leading athletes attracted by the availability of 700 WRL points for the winners...extremely valuable with only around six months left for Tokyo qualification. Top nations in the event were Russia, with three gold medals, followed by Spain, Turkey and Germany with two each. Best results for Australia came from Katharina Haecker and Aoife Coughlan, both with fifth placings.

For UNSW and Australia, Ryan Koenig (below R) took bronze medals in both the cadet and Junior men categories



Thanks to Indra, Heidi, Dennis, Angus and Per for their efforts in a long-overdue mat cleaning working bee.

It was a back-breaking job, and we aren't sure how many bodies were discovered lurking below the tatami...!



Schools Cup 15 Sept.

This competition attracted a good entry of some 110 kids, 26 of whom came from UNSW. After a day of spirited fighting, the result of the Inaugural NSW's Schools Cup was a tie between Bourke St Public School and St Michaels Catholic Primary School - all those schools kids are from UNSW Judo Club! With Warren and Ivica is Xichun Qi, who represented St Michael's Catholic Primary School. Many of our kids were "first-timers" in competition. Well done organisers, referees, coaches, parents!

At the OJU Open, JB was able to catch up with long time friend, renowned Austrian competitor triple Olympian and dual World medallist, Sabrina Filzmoser.

We welcomed several new international members recently. From France we have Jean Draillard, Nicolas Le Borgne and Beka Zubashvili, and Alfredo Peyretti from Italy. The newcomers have not only enriched our training sessions, but have contributed in many ways to the club. Jean and Nic below...



The Queensland Open on 4-6 Oct attracted a good field of entries, including some strong Japanese athletes. UNSW sent a small team with Ivica as coach, and came back with some good results:

Roman Samsonov 2nd Jun boys
Ivan Samsonov 1st sen boys
Dylan Katz 1st cadet 50kg,
Ryan Koenig 2nd cadet 66kg, 3rd Jun men 66kg
Paddy Kearney 5th 66kg
Jason White 2nd masters

Well done guys!



WA Open 9-10 November

Another good weekend in Perth as Ryan and Dylan capped off a very successful year:

Dylan Katz 1st cadets 50kg

Ryan Koenig 2nd cadets 66kg,

Ryan Koenig 1st Jun men 66kg

On 11 October we welcomed a visit by a group of young athletes and their coach from Vanuatu.

The visit highlights the club's reputation of providing good training for foreign athletes



...News and Pics from here and there...

Look out, here we come!!

Heidi Wright and Angus McDonnell both graduated recently and are set to be let loose on an unsuspecting world... Warren was gamely on hand to congratulate the pair.



Randwick Council Sports Awards 2019

Every year Randwick Council honours young sports stars from the district, and UNSW Judo has been there many times. This year we had a number of finalists in their age categories. Unfortunately none was able to take the major award, but it was pleasing to see them recognised for their achievements, and to keep UNSW judo in the spotlight. Well done Dylan Nguyen, Ivan and Roman Samsonov, Dylan Katz and Elijah Raif...!



Gradings galore....!

In the past couple of months we have seen several large gradings, of kids and seniors. A multitude of brand new colourful belts. Of special interest is the fact that some of our graders themselves started at the club in our kids' program...Indra, Nina, Paddy, Giorgia. How time flies!!



Senior group 19 October (L) and below some of the kids who went through their paces on 22 September and 8 December. Thanks to everyone who helped out as examiners and assistants.



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