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COMING SOON...

20 YEARS OF KIAMA SUPPORT

Athletes of Kiama attended the Mayoral Reception at Kiama Community Centre last Thursday. Each athlete was introduced to the Mayor, Sandra McCarthy and presented with the municipal council badge.

The mayor referred to the wealth of talent that has come from the Kiama area and stated that she hopes the local community, in partnership with the Academy, can continue to support, nurture and improve the promising skills that young Illawarra sportsmen and women possess.

Also on display at Kiama on the weekend were the Academy's swimming, netball and rugby union squads. They were part of the activities on show at the regional sporting expo.

ACROSS THE SPORTS

Mountain bike—downhill specialist, Amiel Cavalier (Figtree) finished 9th at the Oceania Down Hill mountain bike Championships in Rotorua on the weekend. His 9th place was just 9 seconds behind winner and world champion, Fabien Barel of France. A crowd of 8,000 greeted the riders along the steep, fast and very technical Mount Ngongotaha course.

Golf — in China over the weekend, Academy graduate Samantha Whittle (Mollymook) finished 8th with rounds of 77, 84, 88 and 85.

Athletics—graduate Madeline Heineres in the Open womens 1500m event. Racing in heavy rain and wind, Heiner achieved a commendable fifth place - edged out in the final straight by two English competitors. Considering the bad conditions, this is a note worthy run by Heiner, who recorded a final time of 4:23.23 - not far behind first place and current national 1500m champion, Sarah Jamieson.

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SWIMMING TOWARDS MELB 2006

With the 2006 Commonwealth Games looming, the future of swimming couldn't look any brighter. At the recent NSW Country Championships held at North Ryde on February 25 and 26, excellent results were achieved by Sydney Water swimmers across all strokes and age divisions.

Kurt Donovan of Unanderra recorded a mammoth five personal best times at the championships. A particular highlight was Donovan's 2nd place finish in the men's 16yrs 100m breaststroke at 1:12.95 (a personal best). Donovan will now compete in the Fisher and Paykel Australian Age Championships in April.

Dynamic brother-sister duo Robert and Angela Hurley of Mt Ousley also featured with Robert placed 1st in the open men's butterfly and 1st in the 17 yrs 100m backstroke. Angela secured 1st place in the open women's 50m freestyle and 4th in the 200m freestyle.

In the open men's 100m breaststroke, there was a close finish between fellow competitors David Mitchell (Woonona) and Matthew Crisafi (Balgownie) as they touched the wall in 2nd and 3rd place respectively. Crisafi also went on to win the 14 yrs 100m breaststroke.

Josh Minogue (Thirroul), also finished a creditable 2nd place in the 400m freestyle and 100m butterfly and 3rd in the 200m freestyle.

Congratulations are also extended to Nicole Sleight (Gerringong) who won the 15yrs women 100m breaststroke. Equally admirable was her 2nd place in the open women's 100m breaststroke. In the 15yrs division, Stephanie Sheppard (Wollongong) finished 3rd in the women's 100m breaststroke and Ryan Hanson (Horsley) in the 100m freestyle.

Shelly Robertson (Kanahooka) finished 2nd in the women's 16yrs 100m breaststroke and 4th in the open 400m freestyle. Cameron Reynolds (West Cambewarra) achieved a 2nd in the men's 17yrs 100m backstroke and 4th in the open 200m freestyle.

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