



NSWFA MEMBER BULLETIN #5

JUNE-JULY 2022

Passion Excellence Community



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear fencing community,

Can't believe the half year is gone!

This is a good time to pause, reflect, show your gratitude, celebrate progress and embrace setbacks.



Looking back, we have been through the Omicron wave, huge disruption to training, competitions and our organisation. Luckily, things gradually are back to track now. More importantly, we can't wait to plan for the future, and just get on with it!

HIGHLIGHTS

- Asian Senior Championships Results
- U15 / Cadet National Championships Results
- Koala Challenge - 10th Anniversary Results
- Paris Mini Marathon Results
- T Centre Program
- Her Sport Her Way Grant
- Lifetime Membership for Duncan Fairweather

I am excited to share with you that NSWFA is awarded \$33,100 in a *Her Sport Her Way* grant by the NSW government. The grant will be 100% dedicated to train more girls and young female coaches and referees. One of our directors, Niki Whelan, will lead this project and turn it into reality.

The momentum in June was really encouraging. We received a couple of new club opening inquiries; SilverSword Fencing Academy will host an international camp in late August; our youth fencers just had their first international competition experience in the Paris Mini Fencing Marathon; our foil fencer Robert Ciccarelli finished his debut Asian Championships ranked 19th, and together with teammates Joseph Glasson and Julian Lim, presented impressive team bouts against the China HK team, 35:45; the Australian Women's Foil team finished 6th at Asians and walked home proudly with the best performance so far in this category!

Back home, competitions and training at the Duncan Fairweather Fencing Centre are back to full swing! Congratulations to all State U15 and Cadet Champions of 2022!

The second half of the year started with a 10-day fencing festival: National Youth (U15) and Cadet Championships on 1-5 July followed by the 10th Anniversary Koala Cup on 6-10 July with more than 450 entries! The NSW fencing community warmly welcomed the international and interstate fencers and their families attending these events.

It's a big demand on our resources to run these two comps back to back so may I encourage you to volunteer, even for one or two hours, in early July?

Please bear in mind NSWFA is a volunteer-run association, and we count on you to help deliver a smooth and positive experience for our young generation of fencers. If you can help, please contact secretary@nswfencing.org.au

Thank you all.

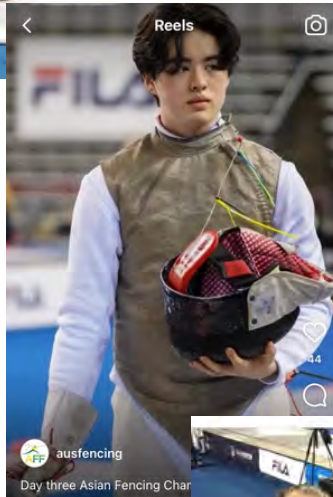
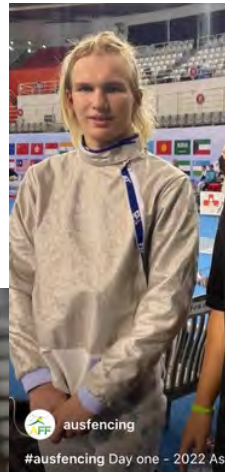
Jing Shang
President

STATE

NATIONAL

INTERNATIONAL

Senior Asian Championships

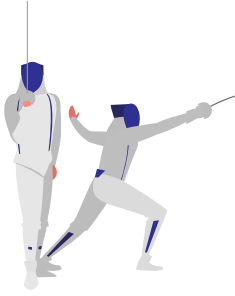


Seven NSW fencers traveled to Seoul, South Korea in June to compete at the 2022 Asian Senior Championships, which resumed after two years of pause due to the Pandemic.

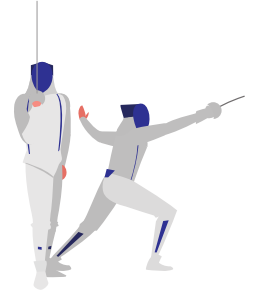
Sean Andrews, Rob Ciccarelli, Joseph Glasson, Sophia Glasson, Leo Kershaw Kostic, Thi Nguyen, and George Yako.

MF fencer Robert Ciccarelli achieved 19th in the individual during his debut at Asians. Together with his teammates Joseph Glasson and Julian Lim, they presented an impressive team bout against the HK team and finished 35:45. MF team final ranking is 7th.

The WF foil team including NSW fencer Sophia Glasson had a terrific run and finished as the 6th ranked team in Asia which is the best result so far for the Australian WF team.



Cadet and U15 Nationals



6 Australian Champions!
6 Champion Teams!

Our young fencers flew the flag high for NSW at the 2022 Australian Youth (u15) and Cadet (u17) Championships in Sydney.

In the Cadets, NSW fencers contested 3 of the 6 individual finals, winning two golds and three silvers. NSW teams made the final in 5 team events with two golds and three silvers.

In the Youth category, our fencers went even better, contesting 5 individual finals, winning four golds and two silvers. Our Youth teams made every final and came away with four golds and two silvers.

The strong performances of our young fencers once again saw NSW win both overall points trophies.

In Cadets, NSW lifted the Janet Hopner-Haswell Cup with 304 points ahead of Victoria on 268 and Queensland on 214. We've held this trophy since 2013.

In Youth, NSW held our grip on the Frank Bartolillo Cup with 346 points ahead of Victoria on 260 and Queensland on 182. We've held this trophy since it was first presented by Frank in 2015.

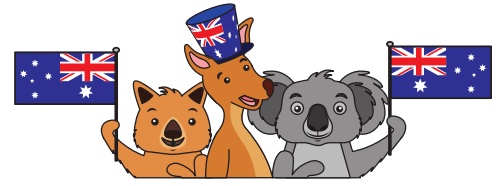


GO NSW!



Cadet and U15 Nationals

Our National Champions:



Cadets

Veronika Vasileva (Women's Sabre)



Alexander Lette (Men's Sabre)

Youth

Amelia Whelan (Girl's Foil)

Yelin Zou (Girl's Sabre)



Richard Windsor (Boy's Epee)

Daniel Iliffe (Boy's Sabre)



Cadet and U15 Nationals

Our Champion Teams:



Cadets

Women's Sabre (Gaia Hardge, Veronika Vasileva, Yelin Zou, Tiana Roberts)

Men's Sabre (Daniel Iliffe, Alexander Lette, Zeno Radnoti, Oscar Shi)

Youth

Girl's Sabre (Tiana Roberts, Anni Zhao, Yelin Zou)

Boy's Foil (Yutian Luo, Tommaso Signorello, Alex Taylor, Eric Wu)

Boy's Epee (Max Dai, Harry Lau, Richard Windsor, Tommy Xu)

Boy's Sabre (Leeoh Gim, Daniel Iliffe, Alexander Lette, Luca Macedo)

Full results:

<https://www.fencingtimelive.com/>

and

<https://www.ausfencing.org/results/>





Paris Mini Marathon Fleuret 2022

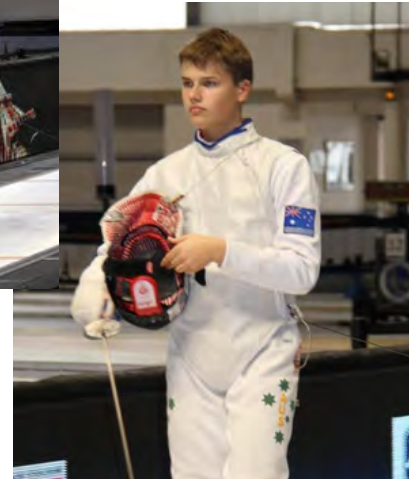


Congratulations to NSW fencers Alex Taylor and Ryan Zhu for competing in the Paris Mini Marathon over the weekend of 24-26 June!

Both boys finished in the top 64 in U15 Mens Foil.

Ryan competed in the U13 Mens Foil category and finished 17th overall.

Alex also gave the U20 Marathon teams a go! Well done boys.



Kaye Mahoney Elected to AFF Board

AFF hosted a special General Meeting on 9th July and Kaye Mahoney, nominated by NSWFA, was elected to fill the director position created by the resignation of Kelvin Andrews. Davide Wheeler, a former NSW sabreur now living in Queensland, was also elected to the AFF Board.

Her term will expire at the conclusion of the AGM held in 2023.

Kaye's expertise in law and experience in sports management will make a valuable contributions to the AFF board.

Congratulations Kaye!



The Koala Roars Back!



As soon as the Youth/Cadet Nationals were over after five days of fencing, it was straight into the Koala Challenge for another five days.

After the Covid hiatus of the past two years, it was great to see the younger fencers back in action again.

In all, there were 457 entries in girl's and boy's foil, epee & sabre in four age groups - u8, u10, u12 & u14. Fencers and their families came from Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane, Adelaide, New Zealand, Singapore and Thailand.





The 10th anniversary Koala Challenge lived up to its reputation for friendship and fun with a great atmosphere throughout.

On the first day, NSWFA marked the 10th anniversary with appreciation for Alex Andre's initiative in starting the competition in 2011 and extending the hand of friendship to young fencers from around Australia, New Zealand and Asia.

Presenting ten days of fencing competition demanded a huge resourcing effort by NSWFA.

We are grateful for the fencers and parents who helped keep the whole show running efficiently and happily for all involved.

Thank you everyone.



BRAVO!

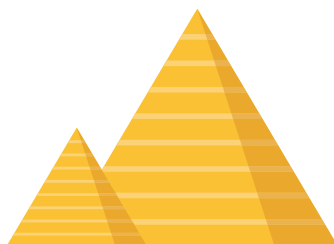


Thank you

We would also like to give a heartfelt 'Thanks' to Ross Taylor for doing such an amazing job as DT for all 5 days of the competition!



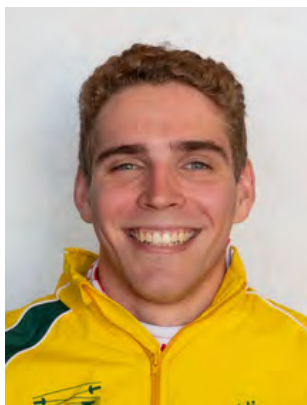
Off to Cairo



Best wishes to the NSW athletes heading off to Egypt shortly for the World Senior Championships in Cairo from 15 - 23 July.

Sean Andrews, Robert Ciccarelli, Joseph Glasson,
Violet Hull, Thi Nguyen, George Yako.

All the best!



A New Chapter for Sholto

Our foil fencer Sholto Douglas will say goodbye to family and friends in July and move to the US to pursue a new chapter in his career.

We thank his tremendous contribution to fencing in NSW and Australia in the last over ten years. He picked up fencing at school at the age of 13 and not long after that became a student of Maestro Antonio Signorello at the end of 2009.

He learned quickly and soon emerged at National level, in Asian zone and World competitions, presenting many best performances by then. His 14th finish at the Grand Prix in Turin in 2017 is one of those highlights in his fencing career, showing the younger generation of fencers what they can aspire to achieve.

He has always been generous in sharing his experience and helping others. More importantly, always a team player. We wish him good luck in the States and look forward to seeing him on or off the piste next time.



Sholto promoting fencing on breakfast TV

Sholto a protege of Antonio Signorello



Advance With Her: Building Future Coaches and Referees in Fencing



Her Sport Her Way Grant

NSW Fencing has received a grant from the Office of Sport to support 'Her Sport Her Way' through the end of 2023.

The aim of the grant is to diversify potential channels of involvement within the fencing community for our female fencers. We will be offering pathways for female fencers to become certified referees and / or certified coaches.

Opportunities will be given to both metro and regional fencers who are interested. An email with details will be going out to clubs soon, so please keep an eye out for it!

Find out more about the grant program here:

<https://www.sport.nsw.gov.au/grants/her-sport-her-way-grant-program>

Find out more about the grant recipients here:

<https://www.sport.nsw.gov.au/grants/her-sport-her-way-grant-program/her-sport-her-sport-way-2021-22-grant-recipients>

Awesome!



With Karen Jones, Chief Executive, Office of Sport



The T Centre Program



NSW Fencing is proud to support a project led by Rebecca Iliffe, mother of sabreur, Daniel Iliffe. She is working with Sydney Secondary College to implement a new program called the T Centre. It is a combined academic and wellbeing 10 week program for students in Years 7 and 8. Students are nominated for the T Centre program because they are underperforming academically, have low self esteem, experienced trauma, some will have a diagnosis and others are undiagnosed and all are showing early signs of disengagement.

For the T Centre program, sport and physical activity is a must. Their choice: fencing!

What fencing does is reflect the philosophy of the T Centre and reinforces the behaviours and skills they are looking to encourage and develop within each student. Fencing allows the flexibility that students can achieve individual success but also learn and practice the responsibilities and commitment of teamwork.

The NSW Fencing Centre kindly loans all the equipment which makes fencing possible for the program.

As Rebecca states,

"The lovely part about the evolution of our fencing program is that it is a living example and model of what we are asking the students to do at the T Centre program; to look around you, set goals, use what you have and make connections."



WOW



Shoosh for Kids



NSW Fencing has signed up to Shoosh For Kids along with many other sports who also want to make sure their games are enjoyable for children.

The focus is on positive sideline behaviour by parents and other spectators.

Parents sometimes put too much pressure on their kids; calling to them from the sideline, telling them what to do, scolding them when they make mistakes, criticising the referee or the coach.

They forget that while kids' sport is competitive, it should also be a positive experience, win or lose.

Does it really matter when a 10 year old doesn't win a bout? It's much more important for children to enjoy the experience and learn from it. They won't feel good about themselves with a parent yelling at them in front of their friends.

So please, keep it positive, keep it fun.

Respect the referee. Let coaches do the coaching.

Let kids be kids!

You'll find lots of good advice at Play By The Rules here:

<https://www.playbytherules.net.au/conduct-and-behaviour/tips-for-parents>

The NSWFA Board has recently strengthened the NSW Fencing Centre Rules of Entry to make it very clear that anyone who disrupts a training session or competition may be asked to leave.

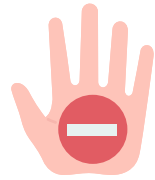
Please read it.

<https://nswfencing.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/NSW-Fencing-Centre-Rules-of-Entry-updated-2022-v1.pdf>



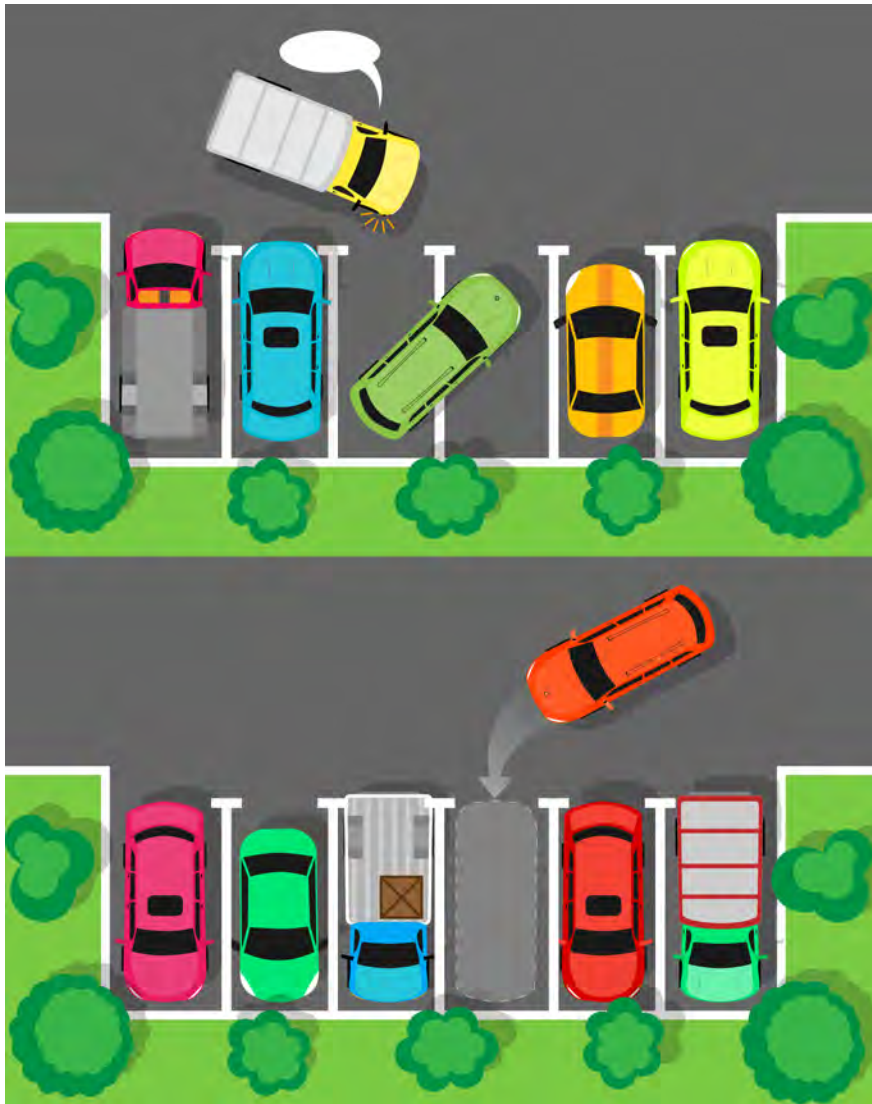


A Message For Parents



Please do not park in the entrance ramp area at the NSW Fencing Centre during business hours (including Saturday). This area is leased by our neighbours and used for deliveries to their business. There is plenty of public parking in the Corporate Park precinct for \$3 an hour or \$7 for the day.

Thank you for your co-operation.



THANK
YOU

Duncan Fairweather Awarded Lifetime Membership

In recognition and appreciation of his outstanding contribution to Australian fencing, Member States voted unanimously to grant Mr Duncan Fairweather life membership of the Australian Fencing Federation (AFF) at its Annual General Meeting on 21 May 2022.

Duncan Fairweather has served NSW Fencing in various leadership positions for over 15 years. He was President of the NSW Fencing Association Board for seven years and served an additional six years as Vice President and Secretary. For five of those he also found time to chair the AFF Selection Commission.

The NSW State Fencing Centre now bears his name, honouring his incredible contribution.

Although a late-comer to the sport, Duncan has a passion for fencing and has proven himself to be a world class athlete. He has competed in nine World Veteran Fencing Championships!

Congratulations



THANK
YOU

There are not enough hours in the day to list the endless contributions that Duncan has made to the sport of fencing and to all the members of our NSW Fencing community.

Congratulations Duncan! You are most deserving of this award.

Please see the AFF's announcement of Duncan's award here:
<https://www.ausfencing.org/duncan-fairweather-awarded-life-membership/>



SUNDAY 28TH AUGUST
2022 SYDNEY
“COUPE DU MONDE”

NSW State Open Competition

NSW Fencing Association presents....
The 2022 Sydney “Coupe du Monde” for all weapons

All places are Fenced

Fencer’s will require 2022 Junior & Senior Affiliation
Please note the equipment standard required in updated
NSWFA Policy

Entry Link:

<https://www.registernow.com.au/secure/Register.aspx?E=47530>

Sunday 28th August

2022 Sydney
“Coupe du Monde”

Open

Epee, Foil & Sabre

“All Places Fenced”

Entry close 6:00pm

Friday 26th August

NSW Fencing
Association

2022

Fencers must be
Junior or Senior

Affiliated