

# NSWFA MEMBER BULLETIN

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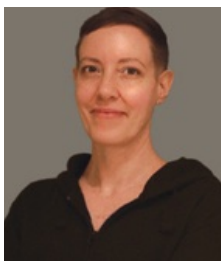
Passion  
Excellence  
Community



NSWFA acknowledges and gives respect to the Gadigal of the Eora nation, the traditional custodians of the land on which the Duncan Fairweather Fencing Centre stands, and to the traditional custodians of the lands on which our clubs stand.



FIE Junior Foil World Cup – Bangkok



## From Alessandra Wollaston President

Hi team!

Thanks for making me so welcome as president these past couple of months. It's been great to spend some time at comps, events, and training sessions getting to know you better. I've enjoyed many good conversations and heard many great ideas, and I'm looking forward to new and ongoing collaborations. Please feel free to get in touch anytime, [president@nswfencing.org.au](mailto:president@nswfencing.org.au).

I'd also like to thank former president Dr Jing Shang for her guidance and care in the hand-over process, vice-president Duncan Fairweather for his diligent support, the board and coaching team for helping me build my understanding of Association systems, processes and operations, and members of the fencing community for giving me insight into the wider landscape of our sport. Special thanks also to all the veteran fencers whose encouragement has also made me feel welcome as a fencer.

Looking forward to everything we'll all do together in 2024!

## Email us with your news!

We'd love to include your news in the *Member Bulletin*, email [secretary@nswfencing.org.au](mailto:secretary@nswfencing.org.au)

## Stay up to date

The NSWFA *Member Bulletin* comes out quarterly and includes highlights and features from the fencing community for that quarter.

To stay up to date with the latest info, news, results and events, visit [www.nswfencing.org.au](http://www.nswfencing.org.au) and follow us on socials:





## Genevieve on track for the Olympics

Congratulations to Genevieve Janse Van Rensburg who has secured a qualifying quota in Modern Pentathlon for the 2024 Paris Olympics. Genevieve made the grade by winning the Oceania Championships at the African/Oceania Championships in Cairo. She shared the podium with Zara Temesi (NSW) 2nd and Tully Watt (VIC) 3rd. In the men's event, Rhys Lanskey (QLD) won the gold to also earn an Olympic quota. Tim Oliver from NSW finished 3rd. Genevieve and Rhys now have the opportunity to be nominated and selected for Paris!



## 2023 Grand Prix Champions

The NSW Grand Prix Awards were announced at a gathering of fencers, coaches, volunteers and parents at the NSW Fencing Centre. Announcing the awards, President Alessandra Wollaston said: "Today we're celebrating not only the achievements of our competitive fencers, but also the skill and dedication of their coaches, the valuable work of clubs, the generosity of volunteers, and the support of parents and caregivers. Together we all make up the fencing community of NSW, and we all have a vital part to play in its success, sustainability and culture. Thank you all for a great year!" MCing the awards was TV star Nicole O'Neil from The Real Housewives of Sydney whose daughters Nawal and Neve are well-known fencers. A special award on the day was the Inaugural NSWFA Blue Award for extraordinary achievement in fencing at an international level, which was awarded to Genevieve Janse Van Rensburg and Veronika Vasileva.

## Great results at the FIE Junior Foil World Cup



Australia's women's team had a good 45-43 win over Thailand in the first round of the FIE Junior Foil World Cup in Bangkok to go through to the round of eight. In the eight, Australia met a tougher opponent in Poland who won 45-30 and went on to take bronze. Our team finished 7th in the 15 team competition. Well done Sophia Glasson, Juliette Masson, Neve O'Neil and Amelia Whelan.



In the men's team event, the Australians met Slovakia and conceded 45-18. Australia finished 15th from 18 teams. Due credit to our team of Mitchell Chen, Joseph Glasson, Tommaso Signorello and Ryan Zhu.

The highlight of the 3-day comp was Neve O'Neil and Joseph Glasson each making the individual 32! Joseph's final placing was 23rd in a field of 144. Neve finished 31st from 114.

Great results from all these athletes!



## WV #1!

Veronika Vasileva's silver medal at the Junior World Cup in Bahrain carried her to the top of the FIE world ranking for Junior Women's Sabre. It's the first time as far as we know that an Australian fencer made it to #1. A phenomenal achievement. With you all the way Veronika!



## Prince Takamado Trophy, senior men's foil, Japan

Marconi's Robert Ciccarelli made it to the 64 at the Prince Takamado Trophy for senior men's foil in Japan, a tough event drawing some of the biggest names in world fencing. Rob finished in 56th place from the large field of 219. Great effort Rob! Joseph Glasson was ranked 129 from pools. In the 128 DE, Joseph fenced Zhaoren Zeng of China and conceded 15-9 to finish in 149th place overall. Matthew Dallasen (188th overall), Hanbi Seo (197th) and Hugo Bosnic (217th) did not qualify from pools. In the teams event Australia faced Great Britain in the first round, losing 45-25 to finish in 22nd spot ahead of Denmark. Our team comprised Hugo Bosnic, Robert Ciccarelli, Matthew Dallasen and Joseph Glasson. Well done everyone!



## Aimee Qiu medals in China

NSW Academy U8 fencer Qian Yu (Aimee) Qiu recently went to China to compete and came home with a bronze medal. Aimee competed in sabre with other young fencers from across China in a national tournament in Suzhou, famed for its classical gardens. A great result – we're proud of you Aimee!

## Shoosh for kids

In November, NSW Fencing once again supported the NSW Office of Sport's annual "Shoosh for Kids" campaign to encourage positive spectator behaviour when kids are playing sport.



Shoosh for Kids  
Encouraging Positive Spectator Behaviour



#ShooshForKids



## Clean sweep for NSW!

NSW retained the Cyclone Cup for 13 years in a row! The overall points trophy for the most successful State at the Australian Senior Championships has again been won by NSW. Our veterans also retained the Centenary Shield. NSW held this trophy since it began in 2013 until Victoria won it in 2021. With these trophies, NSW has proudly claimed every National points trophy in 2023: Youth (U15) – Frank Bartolillo Cup; Cadet (U17) – Janet Hopner Haswell Cup; Junior (U20) – E. J. v Szakall Trophy; Senior (Open) – Cyclone Cup; Veteran – Centenary Shield. Credit to the dedication and effort of our fencers, coaches and families.



## Congrats to Sara and Ted, and Yoongi and Lexie!

Congratulations and best wishes to Sara Scott and Ted Elliott, engaged to be married, and to Yoongi Shim and Lexie Zhiyan Jin, who are getting married in December!



## Min Yi Du – finalist in the 2023 NSW Champions of Sport Awards!

On Monday 20 Nov, Sport NSW held the gala dinner for the 2023 NSW Champions of Sport Awards, in which Min Yi Du was a finalist for Masters Athlete of the Year! Among her significant fencing and coaching achievements, Min is a world champion, having won the women's sabre 60+ at the 2022 World Veterans Championships. Min is also the first fencer ever to become a finalist in these awards, and took her place among the state's best athletes for a night of joyful celebration of sporting achievement.



## 2023 World Ability Sport Games

In a first for Australia, Stephenie Rodriguez competed at the 2023 World AbilitySport Games, Nakhon Ratchasima Thailand for Para Fencing in Cat A Women's Sabre.

Min was interviewed about what fencing means to her, her achievements, and the importance of sport. She reflected on fencing being a sport for all ages, and her approach to the game as a veteran, and was inspired by the achievements of the athletes from all the other sports represented on the night.

Congratulations on well deserved recognition for your achievements Min!



## NSWFA welcomes our new president

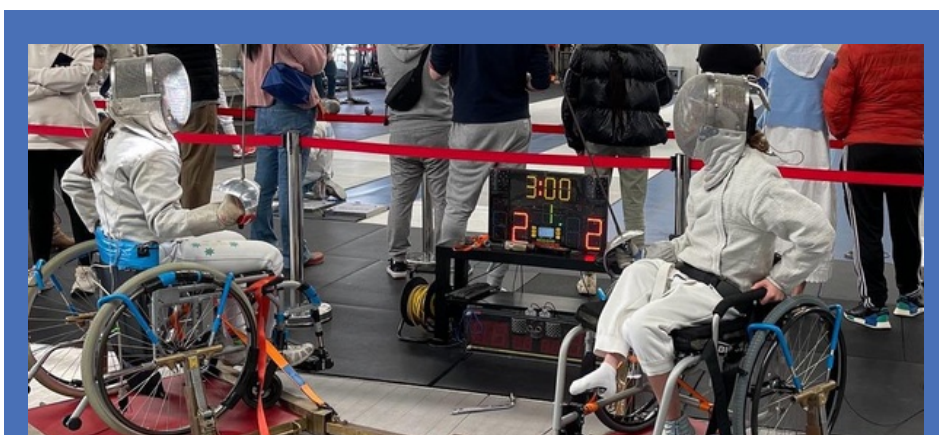
NSWFA president Dr Alessandra Wollaston was appointed on 26 October. Alessandra began fencing at the age of 12, and fenced competitively for several years, being selected to the state U15 foil team for two years, and winning some state and national titles. After a 30 year break, she reconnected with the sport as a fencer at Mountains Fencing Club, and has since served for many years there in key governance roles as well as in coaching, with a focus on supporting participation for all ages and abilities. Alessandra brings a unique combination of skills and experience to the role of president, values diversity and inclusivity, and has an interest in helping the sport develop from a strong grassroots foundation, and in ensuring that the voices of all participants contribute to its development.

## Her Sport Her Way

Congratulations to our winners of the Sabre and Foil 2023 "The Next Level" Women's Competitions held on 20 and 24 October at the NSW Fencing Centre. This competition was sponsored by the Her Sport Her Way grant from the Office of Sport helping to promote female participation and excellence in sport. In addition to competing, these women were given an opportunity to test or further their refereeing skills under either a senior referee's or a coach's guidance. Well done to all the women who participated in this program!



*Alessandra with former NSW president Dr Jing Shang and AFF president Davide Wheeler*



## Funding for Matilda

Congratulations to Matilda Chesterton, who is part of the NSW Wheelchair Program, for receiving a grant through the "No Barriers Sport Grant" for Children. The grant is part of the Sports Access Foundation to assist with the purchase of fencing equipment. Well done Matilda!

# 2023 World Veteran Championships

Australian veterans had a brilliant time at Worlds in Florida, and achieved fantastic results! Top results: Peter Osvath gold in 70+ Men's Epee, Sarah Osvath silver in 60+ Women's Epee and Adam Reynolds silver in 60+ Men's Foil, and Abby Nutt bronze in 50+ Women's Epee. Sarah's result is particularly impressive considering she fenced the final with a broken arm after she was injured in the semi-final! Australia has now won a gold medal in the last three World vets – Peter Osvath in 70+ Men's Sabre in 2023, Min Yi Du in 60+ Women's Sabre in 2022 and Richard Purdie in 70+ Men's Epee in 2019.

**Women's Epee Teams:** Jane Allardice, Abigail Nutt, Julie Seggie, Cathy Syme and Melissa Yeung. **Men's Foil Teams:** Colin Bosnic, Michael Prince, Richard Purdie, Adam Reynolds & Andrey Tyshchenko. **50+ Women's Epee:** Abigail Nutt, Melissa Yeung, Kylie Weatherald and Benita Ramage. **60+ Women's Epee:** Sara Osvath, Cath Syme, Julie Seggie and Alison Wotherspoon. **70+ Women's Epee:** Jane Allardice, Sandra Schwartz and Coraine Sopru. **Men's 50+ Foil:** Andrey Tyshchenko, Colin Bosnic and Darren Ferguson. **60+ Men's Foil:** Adam Reynolds and Michael Prince. **70+ Men's Foil:** Richard Purdie. **70+ Men's Epee:** Peter Osvath, Richard Purdie and David Pilkington. **60+ Men's Epee:** Adam Reynolds, Peter Busboom and Bruno Charlesworth. **50+ Men's Epee:** Darren Ferguson, Christopher Betts, Justin Mackley and Manish Patel.

Well done to our medallists and all our veteran competitors!



## Child safety in clubs

- Review the resources at the [Office of the Children's Guardian](#).
- Understand your obligations in relation to [Working With Children Checks](#) if your club has members aged under 18 years.
- Implement the [Child Safe Standards](#) in your club, including an online [Child Safe Self-Assessment](#) tool to help you.
- Review the [NSWFA policies](#) in relation to child safety.