

FIGHTING FOR GOLD

PCYC Umina Beach boxer Anja Stridsman is an almost certain Commonwealth Games competitor, following selection trials in early November.

Anja was one of six PCYC boxers who were fighting for selection.

She was named female boxer of the Australian elite men's and women's championships for her effort in taking out gold in the 60kg female class.

Boxing Australia will nominate to Commonwealth Games Australia by February 20, the boxers and officials to be members of the Australian boxing team to the 2018 Commonwealth Games to be held on the Gold Coast from April 4 to 15.



STRENGTH: Jacob Riordan, left, with Project Booyah youth worker Alexandra Mobbs and Senior Constable Draz Brkljac.

MOVING SPEECH PRAISES PCYC

On August 25, a large crowd gathered for a "farewell Hassall St" dinner to mark the transition of PCYC Parramatta from its old club to new premises.

One of the club's young people from Project Booyah made a speech, which resulted in a standing ovation from the crowd.

It is reproduced here as a great example of a great organisation:

Good evening ladies and gentlemen my name is Jacob Riordan and I am 16 years old. I have been coming to Parramatta PCYC since I was 13.

I first heard of PCYC through my behavioural school, which is how I met the police officers Jason and Draz. Through my involvement with Parramatta PCYC I have completed three think programs, stand tall, I've fed the homeless at Parramatta and I am currently completing Project Booyah.

PCYC has taught me respect, discipline and to always dream, believe and succeed.

Life before PCYC was hard for me. At three months old my biological father left me, my mum, and my older brother. My mum was living off Centrelink as it was hard for her to find a job.

My mum became depressed, which was hard for me to see. I began to become angry and frustrated, because I didn't have a father figure and mum was always upset. Jason and Draz soon became the role models that I had been looking for.

In November 2016 I faced my biggest challenge when I had a huge argument with my mum. On that very same day I came to Parramatta PCYC furious and upset, but as soon as I saw Jason I started to tear up. I told Jason everything that had happened, and he wouldn't let me leave until he knew I had somewhere safe to stay.

When I walk into Parramatta PCYC I feel like I'm home and safe. Draz always has a smile on his face, and I mean always even if he is yelling at you. Draz is full of advice and goes above and beyond to help out.

I cannot thank Parramatta PCYC enough for what they have done for me. I would personally like to thank John Chedid for always teaching me respect, Anthony Chidiac for teaching me that life always gets better later on you just need to work hard, Jeannie for the respect and love she shows towards me, and Kirk for always, making me happy when I am at my lowest.

Jason and Draz words could not explain or describe how thankful I am for the guidance you have both shown me.

Thank-you everyone.

COMING EVENTS:

MAR 10 2018 | Raw Challenge



CHASING GOLD ON THE GOLD COAST: PCYC Umina Beach boxer Anja Stridsman

NEWCASTLE FENCER TOP IN STATE

Congratulations are due to PCYC Newcastle fencers Genevieve Van Rensburg, below right, and Colby Robins who competed recently in the under-13 epee at the Sydney Olympic Cup.

Colby won silver for men and Genevieve silver for women.

Colby is now number one in NSW under-13 epee.



To support PCYC, you can make your tax-deductable donation by going to www.pycnsw.org.au and pressing the "Donate" button, calling 02 8805 4747 for credit card payments, or sending a cheque or money order to: Reply Paid PO Box 595 Mt Druitt 2770

YOUTH NEWS

EMPOWERING YOUNG PEOPLE

FROM THE CEO:

As we near the end of our 80th year I wish to thank our supporters and members for their continued commitment and enthusiasm towards our vision, mission and strategy. It has been a successful year of celebrations, achievements and delivery of programs and activities that make such a difference to young people and the community.

This newsletter features the continuing achievements of our athletes, the amazing programs that make a difference and empower young people who may have offended or be at risk of offending and the new partnerships we are forging to ensure continued financial stability and strength as an organisation.

Our 2017-2022 strategy included a commitment to ensure that each of our 64 clubs provide secure, fit-for-purpose spaces for our young members and the wider public and that PCYC explores establishing new clubs – spreading the benefits of our movement as widely as possible throughout NSW.

It is important to recognise the part our clubs play towards the well-being and welfare of the community and youth we serve.

Our infrastructure and facilities can become the "home" of youth services throughout NSW without duplication or added expenditure, using the assets and governance that already exist through PCYC.

Our new buildings represent the changing face of PCYC and refurbishments are part of our strategy to meet the changing needs and demands of youth and the community in general.

We need our clubs to be contemporary, safe and relevant to the youth, community, towns and suburbs we serve, ensuring that young people have the best services available to access our empowering experiences and achieve their full potential.

This newsletter highlights three great club achievements – our new PCYC Hornsby/Ku-ring-gai (the first club for 40 years built and designed specifically as a PCYC), our \$1.5 million refurbishment of PCYC Penrith and the great community benefit of a new 2100-square-metre PCYC Muswellbrook car park.

This renewal has been going on all year, with the opening of PCYC Northern Beaches, the move of PCYC Parramatta into an interim modern, five-level centre, planning approval for the new PCYC Wagga Wagga and a study for a new club in Port Macquarie.

Looking to the future, the improvements will keep coming with major additions and renovations completed at Tamworth, Umina Beach, Maitland, Campbelltown, City of Sydney, Lake Macquarie and Morisset.

In late November, PCYC signed a memorandum of understanding with the Clarence Valley Council to investigate establishing a new club in Grafton, answering a long-held desire by the local community. We are also investigating the feasibility of potential new clubs at Ballina, Windsor and Coonamble.

Many more improvements are planned in 2018, because we believe that for PCYC to remain relevant and meet the expectations of the community we must look ahead and demonstrate that wherever there is a need, PCYC is there, serving and supporting youth and the community.

Dominic Teakle, CEO



TABLE TENNIS OPENING FOR CLUB

The Governor of NSW and patron of PCYC NSW His Excellency General David Hurley, above, officially opened the new PCYC Hornsby/Ku-ring-gai on November 8.

The \$15 million facility in Waitara, on the picturesque Mark Taylor Oval, replaces the former 50-year-old club building in George Street Hornsby.

Key speakers at the launch included NSW Police Commissioner Mick Fuller, NSW Police Minister Troy Grant and Hornsby mayor Philip Ruddock.

Funding for the new club has come from PCYC (\$12.5 million from sale proceeds of the George Street site), Hornsby Shire Council (\$2.85 million contribution towards building plus full outside landscaping) and Rotary (\$35,000 for youth hub fitout).

A REMARKABLE DISCOVERY



Former PCYC City of Sydney member Colin Murphy discussing a remarkable discovery with Police Commissioner Mick Fuller. See page 3 for the story.

ALSO IN THIS ISSUE:

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- Army joins youth crusade
- PCYC Port Macquarie
- New car park for PCYC Muswellbrook
- Mad Ball a huge success
- PCYC and Police Bank
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- Formative days recalled
- Fighting for gold
- Newcastle fencers top
- Moving praise for PCYC

THE PEOPLE OF PCYC

Introducing some of our staff, police and volunteers.



JOE CASSAR

PCYC NSW board member and NSW Police Force assistant commissioner for capability, performance and youth command.

It's exciting to see positive relationships with NSW Police and the young people in communities across the state. Programs run at PCYCs across the state are vital in reaching and teaching young people at a grass roots level.



STEVE FIELDS

Volunteer, PCYC Lismore

Steve has been a member of PCYC Lismore for more than 20 years, working tirelessly at all fundraising events, helping to maintain the building and grounds and assisting in police programs when requested.

Steve has been active in encouraging new members to join the club and was named a life governor of PCYC NSW earlier this year.



PCYC PORT MACQUARIE REVIVED

A PCYC could go ahead on land at the Hastings Secondary College, Port Macquarie under a plan announced in October by Education Minister Rob Stokes.

Mr Stokes and member for Port Macquarie Leslie Williams said a memorandum of understanding had been signed to examine the feasibility of building a new PCYC in Port Macquarie.

The proposed PCYC will be built on land at the Hastings Secondary College, Port Macquarie campus in Owen Street and will form part of an elite sports training academy.

Mr Stokes said he was pleased to support the proposal.

"We have land available at the campus and there is a need for a sporting social hub for young people in a safe environment with programs and activities that target the whole community," he said.

Mrs Williams said the local community has been crying out for a new PCYC for years.

"We got close to establishing one in 2012 but it wasn't supported by the then Port Macquarie-Hastings Council," she said.

"Now we have a second chance of re-establishing a PCYC as part of a centre of sporting excellence at the Port Macquarie campus of the Hastings Secondary College.

The proposed PCYC and centre of sporting excellence would include a minimum of two basketball courts, a multipurpose activity space for boxing, martial arts, group fitness and dance and elite gymnastics and "hang out spaces", as well as offices for youth command police and consultation rooms.

The total cost of the facility is expected to be up to \$13 million.



IT'S A NEW CAR (PARK)!

Community facilities have been greatly improved at PCYC Muswellbrook with the official opening of a new car park in September.

The work cost more than \$300,000 with funding including a \$20,000 state government community building partnerships grant and \$30,000 from local fundraising.

PCYC Muswellbrook manager De-anne Douglas said the project had been nearly three months in the making and many years in the planning.

"Safety and convenience have been foremost in the design as many hundreds of people use the car park and entrance each day and organisations such as the Red Cross blood donation van and the BreastScreen NSW bus use the club as their community hub," she said.

PCYC NSW CEO Dominic Teakle said the improvements were part of a strategy to renew and improve club facilities to meet the emerging demands of youth.



MAD BALL A HUGE SUCCESS

More than \$100,000 was raised at the PCYC "Make a Difference" gala dinner held at Macquarie Bank on November 10.

Fundraising general manager Sam Sidwell said it was fantastic night with 150 people in attendance.

"There were amazing performances from the PCYC Taree Gymaroos (pictured) and PCYC Blacktown choir and hip-hop group," she said.

"Major sponsors were Macquarie Group, Geoff King Motors, Police Bank and Hope Estate and guests of honour included the Governor, the Police Minister and youth command Assistant Commissioner Joe Cassar.

"Guest speaker, 17-year-old Iesha Gundy Clark, who is a gymnast with PCYC Taree, told her amazing story of how PCYC had helped her to achieve more than she could ever have dreamt and received a standing ovation for her courage, determination and inspiration."

THANKS TO OUR MAD BALL FOUNDATION SPONSOR:



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Founded in 1969, Macquarie employs more than 13,900 people in more than 27 countries. As at September 30 2017, Macquarie had assets under management of \$473.6 billion.

THANKS TO OUR DIAMOND SPONSORS:



JOINED: Police Bank CEO Tony Taylor, right, puts pen to paper with PCYC NSW CEO Dominic Teakle.

PCYC AND POLICE BANK TOGETHER

A landmark partnership has been formed between Police Bank and PCYC NSW.

The agreement for practical and financial support was signed on October 5, cementing the relationship between the two major community/police organisations.

It involves the biggest sponsorship ever made by Police Bank.

PCYC CEO Dominic Teakle said it was an important partnership because "it's a police bank and we are keeping it in the family".

"It is about running programs for youth and opening up doors for community programs," he said.

"It helps us with our Blue Star leadership program and equally looking at police programs targeted for youths."



PENRITH CLUB NOW OPEN

The Hon Stuart Ayres MP, Minister for Western Sydney, Minister for WestConnex and Minister for Sport officially reopened PCYC Penrith on November 28 following the club's huge make-over.

The building refurbishment, including a new roof, cost \$1.5 million and also involved new bathrooms, room activity relocations and new painting throughout.

All funds were provided by PCYC, with the exception of a state government community building partnership grant of \$10,146 towards the bathroom blitz.

The equipment purchased included the supply and installation of a new basketball ring system costing \$20,477 and weights and fitness equipment totalling \$75,294 which included weights, fitness equipment, spin bikes and synthetic sports grass.

REMEMBERING FORMATIVE DAYS

Former PCYC City of Sydney member Colin Murphy came face to face with his young self on September 9.

Mr Murphy and his wife Mairi drove up from Nowra after seeing an ad for a special 80th anniversary open day at the Woolloomooloo club.

On one of the club walls is a montage of historical photos and Mr Murphy was astonished to see himself as a young blond tuba player.

This proved to be a very emotional moment and Mr Murphy reflected on the very positive times had had at the club as a young boy.



I can't remember the exact dates - around 1957. I was about eight to 10 years old. I was inspired by Louis Armstrong who I think was touring Australia about that time.

My family lived in Pitt St Sydney so it was only a short walk across the park to PCYC W'loo.

The PCYC was most accepting and welcoming. Mr Falkenmeyer was the band leader at the time. We practiced on Saturday morning, rehearsed on Wednesday evenings and played out at various functions and city marches.

That first positive, accepting reception we received at the Woolloomooloo PCYC was a very good start for a young boy.

In those days Woolloomooloo was a hard, poor, deprived community and the PCYC was about the only place that boys could turn to to find release. I remember Mrs Sylvia Chase, a gentle lady handing out cordial and biscuits, talking rowdy kids down and admonishing their bad language in a refined way.

They all readily accepted her guidance and could recognise a gentle hand rather than a harsh one.



ARMY JOINS IN YOUTH CRUSADE

PCYC NSW has conducted its first Reboot camp in partnership with the Australian Army.

The camp was held at Kapooka Military Area, Wagga Wagga, in October, involving 10 young men from clubs at Shoalhaven, Raymond Terrace, Balmain, Kempsey, Coffs Harbour, Auburn and South Sydney.

Reboot is a camp program to develop and build on positive attitudes and behaviours of young people currently participating in a case management program with police youth command.

It was designed to encourage self-motivation, self-discipline, self-worth, leadership and respect and teambuilding and individual challenges were completed to develop communication skills, identify strengths and weaknesses, how to work in a team environment while also testing mental and physical discipline.

Participants were mentored and supported throughout the camp by their police youth case manager and Defence Force personnel.

Next year, two camps are planned for boys and one for girls.