

Javelin, swim stars dual winners of top sporting honour

Olympic javelin thrower Jarrod Bannister and world class endurance swimmer Penny Palfrey were named dual winners of the Townsville City Council's Senior Sportsperson of the Year award. Bannister, a home grown product of Townsville Athletics, and Palfrey, mother of three and champion open water swimmer, were named winners by Townsville Mayor Les Tyrell and special guests Brisbane Lions legend Alistair Lynch and Socceroos skipper Paul Wade at the Civic Theatre in May.

For Palfrey it was back to back wins at the awards.

She claimed this year's title with victory in the Tampa Bay Marathon swim in record time, second in the 45.8km Manhattan Island Marathon and two world firsts with open water crossings between Santa Rosa and Santa Cruz islands off California, and San Miguel Island and the Californian coast.

Bannister clinched the award with a history making year in 2008 during which he rose to world number one with an Australian record throw of 89.02m, followed by sixth place at the Beijing Olympic Games.

His performance in Beijing was the highest place and best javelin throw ever by an Australian in Olympic Games competition. Bannister's hopes of claiming a games medal were shattered when he badly damaged the elbow of his throwing arm.

Cr Tyrell paid tribute to Penny and Jarrod on their rise from local competition to leading the world in their chosen sport.

"Both Penny and Jarrod are great role models and worthy winners of the city's top sporting honour," Cr Tyrell said.

"In Penny's case she has shown enormous determination and extraordinary perseverance to achieve all of this success and at the same time find a balance with work, home and family life.

"Jarrod's story is equally remarkable. Many people in Townsville have followed Jarrod's career with great interest, and were extremely proud of his performance in Beijing last year. He has lived a dream that very few people achieve and that is to represent his country at the Olympic Games."

Penny Palfrey's husband Chris, also a marathon swimmer, capped off a big double for the family after being named Veteran Sportsperson of the Year.

Other winners were Junior Sportsperson BMX racer Rachel



Penny Palfrey pictured with Mayor Les Tyrell, Paul Wade former Socceroos Captain and Brisbane Lions former Captain Alastair Lynch.

Bracken, Townsville Team of the Year Townsville QBL Flames women's basketball side, and Volunteer Sportsperson of the Year

shared by Paul and Christine Hargreaves from Townsville Rowing.

Veteran Sportsperson of the Year

Chris Palfrey – open water marathon swimmer

Chris is married to Senior Sportsperson Award winner Penny and capped off a big night for the family with his win in the Veteran award.

In 2008 Chris won the over 50 category in the 11.2km 'Bloody Big Swim' in Melbourne and won in the same age category in the Rottneest Channel Swim, Australia's longest open water swim at 19.2km.

He was one of 25 open water swimmers selected to compete in the internationally renowned Manhattan Island Marathon Swim and was the second placed person in the over 50 category to finish.

Chris also achieved a world first open water crossing, swimming between the islands of Santa Rosa and Santa Cruz off the coast of California with his wife Penny.

Junior Sportsperson of the Year

Rachel Bracken – BMX racing

In 2008 Rachel continued to add to her trophy cabinet placing at both national and international BMX events.

Rachel took out the Queensland title in the Elite Women Category and went on to place second at the National BMX titles in the Junior Women Category.

Her performances gained her selection into the BMX High performance program, an elite development squad funded by the Australian Sports

Commission.

Rachel went on to compete at the UCI BMX World Championships, Rachel placed third in the final of the Junior Women Category.

Sports Team of the Year

Townsville QBL Flames – Women's basketball

The Townsville QBL Flames blitzed their way into the state basketball final this year and collected back to back titles with an impressive 92-46 win over the South West Metro Pirates.

The Flames then went on to also secure their second consecutive 2008 Australian Club Championships defeating Sydney 73-57.

Volunteer Sportsperson of the Year

Paul and Christine Hargreaves – Townsville Rowing

Paul and Christine contribute to the sport of rowing as officials and coordinators of numerous events.

In Townsville, Paul and Christine coordinate the Townsville Schools rowing program that continues for six months of the year.

For the past three years Paul and Christine have worked tirelessly as president and club captain respectively of the Townsville and JCU Rowing Club.

As officials, they are the highest trained and certified racing officials in Townsville. They put this training to good use at school regattas, regional and state events throughout the year.

Get a taste of your dream career

The IPA Aspire Youth Career Grant Program assists Townsville's youth (aged 15-23) to achieve their dream careers by providing funding to assist in accessing training, further education and career-related experiences.

The grant has been made possible through a partnership between IPA Personnel and Townsville City Council. Both organisations contribute \$40,000 a year to this program to help young people in Townsville achieve their career goals.

The Aspire program is designed to help young people gain access to special education and training opportunities required to get started in their chosen career field.

The March round of Aspire saw young people using their grant money for a range of purposes including:

- » Expenses to attend the Honours Ensemble Program at the Queensland Conservatorium
- » An art tour of Europe to include the 53rd Venice Biennial
- » A trip to Berlin to work on feature films
- » A fashion design course in Brisbane, and
- » A number of courses and conferences relating to their dream careers.

The next round of funding is now open and applications close on Friday 30 October. Visit council's website for further information www.townsville.qld.gov.au



IPA Aspire Youth Career Grant successful recipients March 2009
Front Row (L-R): Kate Lethbridge, Maia Armstrong, Jessica Winton, Ryan Destefani
Back Row (L-R): IPA CEO Mr Rabieh Krayem, Brooke Taylor, Linda Fong (on behalf of daughter Alisha Fong), Cr Jenny Lane.

Book Week at CityLibraries

Drop on down to your local CityLibraries branch in Flinders Street, Aitkenvale or Thuringowa Central to take part in 2009 Book Week celebrations up until 31 August.

The Children's Book of the Year will be on display at the Flinders Street branch and until 22 August, you can celebrate Children's Book Week by going on a book safari crafted by children from Townsville schools.

There will also be a book safari at

the Thuringowa Central branch.

On 26 August visit your local branch to see CityLibraries' staff dress up day. See if you can guess which book character your favourite staff member will emulate.

There are lucky door prizes to be won.

You can even join the Book Safari online using CityLibraries' online database at www.townsville.qld.gov.au

