

## LANE COVE SWIMMERS REPRESENT AUSTRALIA AT MACCABIAH GAMES

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Two brothers, David and Daniel Rifkin, are in hard training at Lane Cove for next month's 18<sup>th</sup> Maccabiah Games in Israel.

The Maccabiah Games are the quadrennial Jewish Olympics, held in Israel the year following the Olympic Games, in which the best Jewish athletes from throughout the world compete in Open, Masters, Juniors, and Disabled competitions.

24 year old David Rifkin is juggling university studies, his job as Head Coach of the Lindfield Public School swim team while training at Lane Cove under the watchful eye of John Thompson.

"I've been enjoying my training. It's been tough balancing everything but every time I get in the water I feel stronger and faster. I can't wait to compete in Israel." Rifkin said.

His 22 year old Daniel, is also balancing work, university commitments and training.

He said "I've been enjoying training with John again. He coached me many years ago at Warringah. I'm focussing on 100 freestyle and 100 breaststroke at the Games."

His older brother is competing in 200 butterfly, 100 butterfly and 100 freestyle.

Thompson is confident that his charges will do well.

"Both David and Daniel have been training well. I've been particularly impressed with the way they've had to balance the outside pressures on them with their need to be in the water at least 5 times a week."

The brothers aren't the only members of the family competing: younger brother Michael is representing Australia in Triathlon; Julian, the proud Dad is competing in Triathlon and is Team Manager for Triathlon and Cycling.

Just to put the icing on the cake Mikaela their youngest daughter will be having her Batmitzvah in Jerusalem by the Walling Wall just before the opening ceremony.

The official opening ceremony is on the 13<sup>th</sup> of July.

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