

## LANE COVE'S YOUTH OLYMPIC GOLD MEDALLIST

20.1.09

17 year old Lane Cove swimmer, Phil Butcher, demonstrated why he's one of Australia's up and coming swimming super stars by winning two gold medals and a bronze at last week's Australian Youth Olympic Festival.

Butcher led from the start in his pet event, the 100 Butterfly – ensuring that his nearest rival, Japan's Yusuke Yasue, had no chance, despite being the faster swimmer on paper.

The talented 17 year old went out in 25.22 seconds and finished with a time of 54.50. Fellow Australian and North Shore swimmer, Luke Stirton won Bronze in a time of 55.61.

Butcher also won gold in the 4x100 Medley Relay, swimming the butterfly leg in a blistering time of 53.86.

He won Bronze in the 100 Backstroke.

This was the first time the teenager had represented Australia – he also became Lane Cove's first Australian representative.

Lane Cove Head Coach, John Thompson – one of Australian team coaches – praised his young charge's performance.

"This was particularly impressive considering his preparation was far from ideal. He had a shoulder injury which meant for the past 6 weeks he has only been able to do light rehab-type training" said Thompson.

The Australian Gold team of which Thompson and Butcher were a part won both the point score and the gold medal tally at the meet.

The Games' success follows a successful campaign for Lane Cove at the recent NSW Age Championships that saw the club produce another State Champion.

13 year old Mamo Shiitsu, currently one of Australia's fastest 200 butterflyers won the Gold Medal by closing his competition down in the final lap of the event.

Team-mate, Sally Gilbert, came home with an extra medal this year – winning two Bronze for the 100 and 200 Breaststroke.

The final race was a fitting end to the meet with the girls 10x50 Freestyle Relay also coming away with the Bronze Medal.

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