

World No 1

Steve Strevens

LOCAL athletic sensation Chloe Jamieson is now a world-class athlete.

To top off a sensational year the 15-year-old has rocketed to the top of junior athletics and is now ranked number one in the world in the International Association of Athletics Federation for Under 17's 400m hurdles.

This comes after having only five runs at the distance.

Chloe's Australian record of 59.66s also places her in the top 10 in the world in Under 18's 400m hurdles.

Then, her 200m hurdles time of 27.27s is thought to be the fastest in the world this year for her age.

And in yet another significant achievement, Chloe has been awarded the Ron Smith Trophy for most outstanding individual performance in the Illawarra and South Coast during a special presentation recently at the Kembla Grange Turf Club.

Added to that, she was also presented with a School Sports Association Secondary Blues

Award. This caps off an incredible year for the Tathra girl and has

shown what she may be able to achieve in the future.

"It has been a fantastic year for me and the award was a really great way to finish it off," she said.

"It's great to see my times and that ranking on the IAAF website and I'm really pleased as I'm only just starting at that distance."

Chloe has just started training again after sustaining a minor ankle

injury and said she was talking to her coach Matt Beckenham about upcoming meetings.

"There are a lot of possibilities for the next couple of months leading up to the National Under 18 Championships in March," she said.

Beckenham, a Sydney 2000 Olympian and a 1998 Commonwealth Games representative, has, together with

Chloe's father Kel, been guiding Chloe for some time and believes she has a great future in the sport.

"We've talked about the Canberra Grand Prix event but nothing is definite yet," Chloe said.

One of her aims is to run a good time at the championships as that is when the team for the Youth Olympics will be chosen.

To be held in

Singapore in August, the Youth Olympics are the pinnacle for any Under 18 athlete.

"It will be really hard to make the team because there are only five girls and five boys chosen to go and they can come from any athletic event," Chloe said.

"It is really about your time on the day and I'll need to be at my best so that's what I'll concentrate on now."

• To top off a sensational year Chloe Jamieson was awarded the Ron Smith Trophy for most outstanding individual performance in the Illawarra and South Coast and (centre above) on the podium at the recent Hobart athletics meeting.



Local rider captures the Caltex cup

Kirsty McPaul

FOR the first time in its 14-year history, the Bega Showjumping Cup has been won by a local rider.

Jamie Smith of Angledale pulled off two fast, sleek and clean rounds in the Bega Caltex Showjumping Cup to beat a class field of 14 competitors much to the delight of the home crowd.

After the first round set by course designer Gavin Chester, 50 per cent of the field had gone clear over the rider-friendly course ranging between 1.40m and 1.45m in height.

Seventeen-year-old Clinton Beresford of Bega rode an outstanding first round, only incurring four faults for a rail down at the second fence. Bega Showjumping Club Vice-President Sandra Kenny was one of the seven to complete the first round with zero penalties.

Jamie Grant, formerly of Bega, had two rides in the Cup.

He finished the first round clear on one horse and with four faults on the other.

Local favourite, Grant Hughes of Canberra, only managed to go clean on one of his three mounts in the first round.

Anna MacGregor came all the way from Perth to contest the Eastern Showjumping circuit and was the black horse of the Bega Showjumping Cup competition. Relatively unknown among the audience apart from the fact, as explained by the commentator, that the horse had an unblemished record since crossing the Nullabor.

Hayley Coman, the 22-year-old daughter of Bemboka born and bred Olympic Showjumper Jamie Coman was very disappointed when a short blank in concentration led to her turning the wrong direction after one fence. After realizing her mistake, Coman turned around to incur four faults for an error in course and another penalty for exceeding the time allowed.

The scene was set for a very exciting jump-off with all combinations invited back to contest the second round with the competitor who finished with the least faults and fastest time to be declared the winner.

The course consisted of some technical lines, the option for some tight turns and a traditional long gallop to the last fence which was of course the naming sponsor's Caltex fence, situated right in front of the ring-side grandstand, much to the crowd's excitement.

The last jump was a massive spread fence, 1.55m or 5'2" in the old scale in height.

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