

# Piek performer



Deane Piek, of Cherrybrook, is this week's *Advocate* Junior Sports Star nominee. Picture: PETER KELLY

**BRIAN KARLOVSKY**

STANDING 175cm tall and weighing 76kg Cherrybrook karate exponent Deane Piek is fairly big for his age.

However, when Deane, 12, arrived at the Australian Open Karate Championships in Melbourne recently he learned a life lesson: there is always someone bigger. In fact, they were all bigger.

The young junior black belt wasn't fazed by the sheer size of his opponents.

He ended up winning gold and became Australian karate champion for his age group.

"I was happy and proud," he said. "This was my first time at Australian Championships so I was

nervous and confident . . . a bit of both."

Deane took up karate as a six-year-old in South Africa and, after moving to Australia two years ago, joined Evolution Martial Arts at Thornleigh.

In that time, he had made a huge contribution to the club, according to its sensei, Ray Morcomb.

"He is making great headway for our juniors," Morcomb said.

"He is light years above everybody else and he has been assisting with the junior classes as well - he is like a junior instructor. "He is a great kid."

Deane is the reigning Australian Karate Federation NSW junior sportsman of the year, too.

He hopes to represent Australia in the Oceania Championships in Tahiti in August.

● Nominate for the Cumberland-Courier Junior Sports Star Awards now.

Athletes aged 10-16 can enter the campaign, sponsored by Rebel Sport.

Anyone can nominate by using the form in Sport or at [hornsbyadvocate.com.au](http://hornsbyadvocate.com.au)

The *Advocate* Junior Sports Star will receive \$1000 and a medal.

The overall Cumberland-Courier Medal winner will receive another \$1000.

There is also a Young Achiever Award and a Contribution to Sport Medal.

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