

Boosabum Jacek Leszczynski reports

## 2016 AAITF NSW Open Taekwon-Do Championship Wagga Wagga

The ANZAC long weekend was very busy for the Jejas that attended TST (tournament squad training). On 24<sup>th</sup> April 27 competitors from TTM took part in AAITF NSW Open Championships held in Wagga Wagga.

On Friday we embarked on the road trip. The team consisted of a small contingent representing TTM – Boosabum Jacek Leszczynski, Boosabum Tsvetomir Dinchev, Boosabum Amanda Murray and Michelle Graham – at an International Umpire Course, also held in Wagga over the weekend. The rest of TTM crew had a short training with the coaches of the national team during this time. The Saturday has ended in very nice atmosphere at one of many Wagga restaurants where whole TTM team met up for a little bite before a big day.



The tournament started early on Sunday morning with patterns. And here was the first sign that all that hard work and extra time in the dojang paid out. We are known for being good in pattern but this time the pint was proven even more when in 3 divisions (female pattern 1<sup>st</sup> dan, male pattern 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Dan and male pattern colour belt) – all three medals were taken by the TTM. Straight after this success our team patterns hauled in yet some more medals to add to the tally – gold for the ladies and silver for the guys (and Amanda...).



Then came the most anticipated event – sparring. Once again many medals were snapped up by our competitors. There was a lot of excitement across all the divisions, from juniors all the way to the veterans. This time TTM had 3 teams for sparring: juniors', ladies' and men's who all came back with some bling: gold, silver and silver respectively.

Self-defence routines managed to get us a silver. This time Musk was selected to be the one to protect herself from “evil baseball” players Kevin and Jacek.

The end of the tournament saw another clean sweep in special techniques by TTM, where all three places were award to us.



Sunday finished at another restaurant where all the overall champions were named and rewarded. Junior divisions were taken out by Musk Chow and Joe Lee. Both will be representing Australia in this year's Junior and Veteran World Championships in Italy. And as you probably have already guessed, Tam Taekwon-Do Mudokwan were named the overall club champion of this tournament!

On ANZAC Day before going back home we had one more thing to do. The to-be-empirees had to take one final exam for the International Umpire Course , and World Champ competitors completed Australian team training by Master Danny Kordanovski – Head Coach of the Aus team. Our coaches are Senior Master Tam Fook Chee, Sabum Justin Low and Boosabum Sarah Fitzgerald-Holmes.

We'd like to congratulate all the competitors their success and wish them many more to come. Also we'd like to thank all the coaches very much for their hard work and showing us the way to success!

Taekwon!