



press clip

# Juniors strike gold in the pool

**David Penrose**

YOUNG South Australian swimmers scooped the pool at last month's Pacific School Games in Adelaide, taking home an impressive 18 gold medals.

St Ignatius College's Abby Duncan led the way, winning six gold and a bronze at the nine-day event held at marion.

Duncan prevailed in three 50m races (freestyle, backstroke and butterfly), two 100m events (freestyle and butterfly), and the 200m individual medley – all in the 17-19 year category.

Underdale High's Liam Bekric claimed three gold, two silver and two bronze.



**Abby Duncan**

The visually impaired swimmer won the 50m breaststroke for 14-year-olds, as well as the 50m and 100m multi-class breaststroke.

Mary MacKillop College's Tess Shrestha, Woodcroft College's Josh Thomas and Victoria Wright were others who snared multiple gold medals.

Scotch College's Tess Bastian and William Twizell, and Faith Lutheran's Joshua Grace also went home with gold.

Duncan, Chloe Ireland, Stefanie Scherwitzel and Jessica Axford finished second to NSW in the 17-19 year-old 400m freestyle relay.

Overall, SA swimmers took home 45 medals – 18 gold, 10 silver and 17 bronze.

The Games featured more than 3500 school-aged athletes from seven countries including New Zealand, India and Pakistan, as well as all the Australian state teams. Olympic gold medalists Ian Thorpe and Cathy Freeman have competed in the past at the Pacific School Games.