

Friday 09 September Australia hits cloud nine

MEDAL TABLE

	GOLD	SILVER	BRONZE
Australia	9	7	6
England	7	5	2
Wales	2	3	2

Australia has won a staggering nine gold medals in swimming, cycling, long jump and discus on the opening day of the 2011 Commonwealth Youth Games on the Isle of Man.

SWIMMING

Sydney swimmer, 15-year-old **Ami Matsuo**, kick started Australia's gold rush in the 25m pool taking out the women's blue riband 100m freestyle in 54.35, from her Victorian team mate **Kotuku Ngawati** (54.79) and England's **Sophie Smith** (55.78).

The **Justin Rothwell** coached Matsuo, who narrowly missed World Championship selection this year when she finished second to **Marieke Guehrer** in the relay time trial, then backed up with team mates **Adelaide Hart**, **Ngawati** and **Leah Neal** in the 4x1000m freestyle relay to lead Australia to a crushing victory in 3:41.57, from England (3:45.05).

The women's 800m freestyle pitted two Queensland distance stars, **Leah Neale** and **Remy Fairweather**, against each other in one of the races of the night, but it was Fairweather who emerged from the whitewash to score gold in 8:26.63, from Neal (8:36.02) and South Africa's **Michelle Webber** (8:38.26).

In the men's 50m butterfly Queenslander **Chris Raven** flew down the two laps of the National Sports Centre short course pool to swoop gold in 23.80, from **Hendrick Alberts** (24.46) of South Africa.

In the last race of the evening, the men's 4x100m medley relay quartet of **Te Haumi Maxwell**, **Robert Gerlach**, **Chris Raven** and **Tommy Sucipto** set the pool alight, winning gold in a Games record of 3:38.68, from the determined Scotland (3:41.50) and South African (3:46.13) teams.

Victorian **Eugene Tee's** trademark late surge was not enough to hold off England's fast starter **Matt Johnson** (4:15.41) in the men's 400m IM, relegating the Aussie to silver in 4:15.84.

In the men's 100m breaststroke West Australian **Tommy Sucipto** also nabbed silver in a new personal best time of 1:01.15, behind Scotland's barnstorming **Craig Benson** (59.63).

Queenslander **Vanessa Puhlman**, the 100m specialist, was able to grab bronze in the two lap butterfly dash, touching the timing pads in 27.38, just behind race winner **Marne Erasmus** (26.56) of South Africa.

Illawarra distance swimmer **Jarod Poort** kept the medals coming for Australia, taking the bronze in the men's 200m freestyle in 1:49.32, from Welsh workhorse **Leuan Lewis** (1:47.28).

Northern Territory born **Robert Gerlach** was a shade outside the medals, finishing fourth in the 200m backstroke in 1:59.50, while **Eugene Tee**, exhausted from his 400m IM only moments earlier finished seventh in 2:04.60.

West Australian **Adelaide Hart** was also just outside the medals, finishing fourth in the 200m backstroke in 2:12.02, while Victorian **Karlene Pircher** finished sixth in the women's 100m breaststroke, stopping the clock at 1:09.77, behind race winner **Sycerika McMahon** (1:07.93) of Northern Ireland.

BADMINTON

In the men's singles Australia's **Eddie Hung**, who was part of the 2011 Pan Pacific Championships winning team, breezed past Jamaica's **Gerald Issacs** 21-15, 21-16, before overcoming Isle of Man athlete **Ben Li** in the round of thirty two, 22-20, 21-16.

Hu-Wen Chew was the other Aussie male in singles action, taking down Sri Lankan **Rak Perera** in the round of thirty two by walkover, before getting upstaged in the round of sixteen by England ace **T. Wolfenden** 15-21, 10-21.

In the mixed doubles, the Aussie pairing of **Toby Wong** and **Jacqueline Guan** trounced **Laura Minto** and **Dom Jaffray** (FAL) 21-6, 21-5, while in the other mixed event, Australian's **Gronya Somerville** and **Matt Chau** decimated Isle of Man's **Chris Avery** and **Kay Callow** 21-9, 21-4 to move through to the next round where they will face Scotland.

In the women's singles action Ballarat bruin **Tara Piven** cruised through her round thirty two match against **Tebogo Ndzinge** (BOT) 21-2, 21-4, before stepping up another gear to outsmart South African **Magdalena De Villers** in the round of sixteen, 24-22, 21-12.

Victorian **Vinning Mak**, runner up at the 2011 Oceania Junior Champs in the women's singles, took out her tough three setter against Sri Lanka's **Upuli Samanthika** 21-18, 20-22, 22-20 to set up a round sixteen showdown with **Jordan Hart** of Wales.

The men's Aussie doubles pairing of **Toby Wong** and **Hu-Wen Chew** took down the sentimental hometown pairing of **Ben Li** and **Matt Nicholson**, 21-7, 21-17, while **Matt Chau** and **Eddie Hung** went down to their India counterparts 13-21, 13-21.

The women's double pairing of **Vinning Mak** and **Tara Piven** took on the might of England's **Sophie Brown** and **Holly Smith** and went down in a nail biter 19-21, 21-17, 21-17.

Australia's other women's doubles team of **Jacqueline Guan** and **Gronya Somerville** fared better, crushing Isle of Man's **Laura Beggs** and **Kay Callow** 21-4, 21-15, to set up a quarter final showdown with Canada.

ATHLETICS

ACT long jumper **Angus Gould** produced five personal best jumps in a row to upstage England's event favourite **Elliot Safo** (7.41m) to stretch the tape a staggering 7.52m in the men's hotly contested long jump.

The 17-year-old excitement machine tore chunks off his previous best of 7.04m, to announce himself on the international stage, while fellow Australian **Jake Grevsstuhl** (6.97m) chimed in for fifth.

Mt Druitt product **Taylah Sengul** sent her discus PB of 47.78 into a spin at the National Sports Centre to break through for her maiden international gold medal, posting a jaw dropping whirl of 50.71m.

The 2011 Australian All Schools discus and shot put U/16 champion caused a boil over to upstage Jersey's event favourite **Shadine Duquemin**, who could only manage 49.25m with her allocated throws.

In the men's high jump Australia's **Tom Henry**, the Australian U/17 title holder fell just 3cm short of gold, snaring silver at a neat 2m, while South Africa's **Willem Van Schalkwyk** was the event spoiler, notching up a towering 2.03m.

A blistering 1500m display from **Sophie Linn** fell agonisingly short of gold, passing the post second in 4:45.33 behind Wales runner **Ffion Price**, who outpaced the Aussie over the final 100m to steal gold in 4:44.14. In the men's corresponding event both **Kyle Martin-Alcaide** (3:54.76) and **Jack Curran** (4:00.05) comfortably progressed through to tomorrow night's final.

NSW sprint sensation **Josh Clarke** chalked up a new PB to grab bronze in the men's 100m dash, stopping the clock at a blistering 10.53, just a meagre 0.03 behind race winner **Tahir Walsh** (10.50) of Antigua and Barbuda.

In a truly world class field, NSW runner **Kate Spencer** scored a gallant fourth place finish in the 2km steeplechase, clocking 6:55.05 behind world class Kenyan **Norah Tanui** (6:28.10).

In the men's 400m Tasmania **Max Waldron** snuck into tomorrow night's final in sixth place, passing though the finish line in 49.85, while in the women's 400m **Alex Bulic** (60.85) just missed out on a birth in tomorrow's final finishing the semi-finals in seventh.

Victorian's national youth champion **Sophie Taylor** finished a gallant fifth in the women's 100m sprint, posting an encouraging 12.15, from eventual winner England's **Sophie Papps**, who passed the post in 11.53.

BOXING

Aussie flyweight pugilist **Jackson Woods** claimed Australia's first boxing victory of the Games, after Tasmanian Bantamweight **Dylan Cooney** (15-3) and lightweight **Brandon Ogilvie** (13-19) were unlucky in their respective bouts yesterday. The 18-year-old U/19 national 52kg champion easily deposed of his Kenyan counterpart, winning his quarter final 20-7, to set up a semi-final bout with Northern Ireland.

In the men's welterweight bout NSW boxer **Kurtis Cooper** ran into a white hot **Damon Jones** from England, who was too strong taking the victory 20-1.

Light welterweight fighter **Dan Lewis** stormed through unscathed to the semi-finals in his bout with hometown boy **Edward Rennie**, who retired injured.

In the men's middleweight bout Tasmanian **Dylan Hardy** dished out a barrage of chin music, backed up by a series of methodical body blows to dismantle **Leo Harewood** of Barbados 19-10.

The light heavy weight semi-final bout between Australia's **Brandon Allen** and England's **Jack Massey** takes place tomorrow afternoon, giving the hungry Allen his first taste of the action.

CYCLING

Australia claimed gold and silver in the men's time trial with Victorian speed freak **Alex Morgan** taking the title in 9:00, from his team mate **Jack Beckinsale** who was 11 seconds back in 9:11. Fellow Aussies **Robert McCarthy** (9:35) and **Caleb Ewan** (9:36) finished fifth and sixth respectively.

In the women's corresponding time trial, Australia's Jess Allen (10:30) finished a gallant second behind England's **Hannah Barnes** (10:13), while Australian **Alison Rice** (10:44) was fifth, **Emily Roper** (10:51) seventh and **Jess Mundy** (10:57) ninth.

In the women's time trial Australia had to settle for third in 21:14, behind England (20:58) and Wales (21:11), while the Aussie alpha males made amends finishing first in their time trial in 18:11.

GYMNASTICS

The Australian teenage trio of **Tyson Bull**, **Kent Pieterse** and **Declan Stacey** claimed bronze in the men's gymnastics team event with 221.950 points, narrowly behind eventual winners England (238.700) and second place getters Canada (229.150).

Australia claimed their second bronze medal of the night in the women's corresponding team event, with **Alex Eade**, **Maddie Leydin** and **Emma Nedov** taking third with 148.850, from England (159.750) and Wales (156.000).