

PETER DRAPER

INDEPENDENT MEMBER FOR TAMWORTH

MEDIA RELEASE

State Certificates recognise Tamworth's next generation of sports stars

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Member for Tamworth Peter Draper today extended his personal congratulations to three talented teenagers who have succeeded in representing NSW in their individual sports.

Mr Draper presented State Representative Certificates to Ali Douglas and Michael Chapman in a ceremony held this morning at the Northern Inland Academy of Sport.

The third recipient, Lauren Burns-Rees has since relocated to Newcastle, and her certificate for competing in two walking events at the Australian All Schools Track and Field competition will be forwarded.

Tamworth's Michael Chapman, who actually participates in the NIAS talent search triathlon program, received the certificate for representing NSW in Touch Football at the 2003 National Championships in September last year.

As a member of the NIAS Softball Squad, Attunga's Ali Douglas was a member of NSW Under 16 Women's Fastpitch Softball team and competed at the 2004 National Softball competition in January. She is now on the Australian Junior Development Squad.

"It was exciting to hear that Ali is following the same path as Stacey Porter who was recently chosen to represent Australia as a member of the Womens' Softball team at the 2004 Athens Olympic Games," Mr Draper said.

"It's vitally important to recognise the achievements of young athletes as they make their way to becoming the next generation of professional sportsmen and women.

Mr Draper said the State Representative Awards, which feature the State Coat of Arms and the Premier's signature, recognised people who reached state level in any field.

Candidates can be of age and have succeeded in a competitive field such as dance, sport, the arts or academically and have represented the State of NSW nationally or internationally.

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