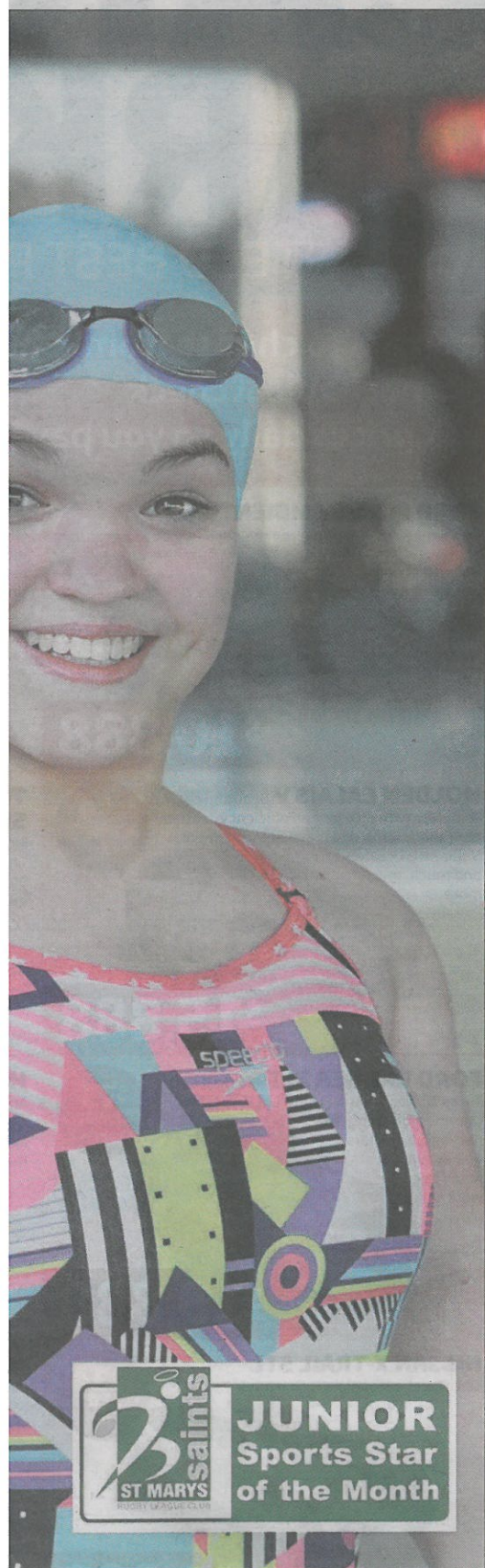


SPORT



**SWIMMING**  
Open water swim attracts 280

P30



# Looking to world stage

**SWIMMING**

BY KRYSZYNA POLLARD 6138

LEONAY teenager Sarah Keenahan has only been swimming competitively for just over three years, but has already smashed her way into the record books.

The talented 16-year-old broke the NSW long course multi-class record for the 15 years 50m and 100m backstroke, the NSW short course multi-class 14 years 50m backstroke, 50m freestyle, 50m butterfly and 50m breaststroke, and the NSW short course open record for 50m backstroke.

Now Keenahan has her eye on representing her country in the 7th World Dwarf Games to be held in Guelph, Canada, next year, and eventually wants to swim for Australia at the 2020 Paralympics.

The World Dwarf Games 2017 will be the largest sporting event in history held exclusively for athletes with dwarfism.

"I am hopefully off to the World Dwarf Games in Canada next year, and I definitely



I am hopefully off to the World Dwarf Games in Canada next year, and I definitely want to do backstroke, 'fly and the IM.

**Sarah Keenahan**

want to do backstroke, 'fly and the IM [individual medley]," she told the *Gazette*.

For many years Keenahan didn't swim at all, as ear problems associated with her dwarfism kept her out of the water. But after being properly tested in the pool in year six, the Korowal School student came on in leaps and bounds.

Now under the watchful eye of Nepean Aquatic Centre head coach and former Paralympic swim coach, Jackie Barck, Keenahan has exceeded expectations and competes in multi-class

events under the classification of S6 - short stature athlete.

Keenahan has been named the Penrith Valley Sports Foundation's junior sports star for October, and thanked her mum and coach for all their support.

"I'd like to thank Jackie and mum as well for waking up so early all these years to drive me around, and my family and school for being so supportive," she said.

While swimming is her first love, Keenahan also excels in soccer as a member of the Blue Kangaroos - in which she now plays a coaching role - and has also played in able-bodied teams with the Hazelbrook Hawks in the Blue Mountains.

She also hopes to play in Australia's World Dwarf Games side, and is currently looking for sponsors to help her with her international sporting journey. Those interested in sponsorship can email [dwarfsarah@gmail.com](mailto:dwarfsarah@gmail.com) for more information.

**To nominate a junior sports star of the month, visit [www.pvsf.org.au](http://www.pvsf.org.au).**

Swimmer Sarah Keenahan has her eye on Paralympics.

