

### **SASI AWARDS TOP ATHLETES FOR 2008**

South Australian 'super fish' Matthew Cowdrey and equestrian silver medallist Megan Jones have taken top honours in the 2008 South Australian Sports Institute Awards.

Recreation and Sport Minister, Michael Wright, presented awards in 12 categories to SASI athletes and coaches at a dinner at the National Wine Centre last night.

Paralympic swimming champion Matthew Cowdrey was named the SASI Male Athlete of the Year.

"Matt produced a simply outstanding performance at the Beijing Paralympics, bringing home a remarkable five gold and three silver medals," Minister Wright said.

"His five gold medals were all in world record time, adding to the high esteem in which he is already held in the swimming world. This award is testimony to the commitment and success of this exceptional young athlete."

Female Athlete of the Year went to equestrian Megan Jones, who is the first Olympic medallist to ride a homebred and self-trained horse.

Minister Wright said Megan, with her silver medal in the teams event and a fourth-placing in the individual ranking at Beijing, had developed her horse Irish Jester over 15 years, and now has another horse waiting in the wings for London 2012. Her dedication to her sport and success on the world stage had led to her taking out the prestigious Female Athlete of the Year Award.

Minister Wright said the 2008 SASI Awards showcased the outstanding achievements of SASI athletes, coaches and programs over the past year.

"2008 has certainly been a big year for SASI."

"It was with great pride for this State that we had some 47 South Australian athletes represent us at the Beijing Olympic and Paralympic Games.

"Among these athletes, we had medal winners such as Hayden Stoeckel, Hannah Davis, Megan Jones and Matthew Cowdrey capture the hearts of the nation.

"And while many of our senior athletes were focusing on Beijing, there were more than 70 other SASI program athletes in 2008 who were selected in senior or junior national teams and squads, in another great accolade for our South Australian athletes," Minister Wright said.

## **2008 SASI Award winners are:**

### Male Athlete of the Year

Matthew Cowdrey (Swimming)

### Female Athlete of the Year:

Megan Jones (Equestrian)

### Junior Male Athlete of the Year

Sam Willoughby (BMX)

### Junior Female Athlete of the Year

Annette Edmonson (Cycling)

### SASI Coach of the Year

Peter Bishop (Swimming)

### SASI Significant Contribution to Sport Award

Adrian David (SASI Rowing)

### Amy Gillett-Safe Award

Hannah Davis (Canoe-Kayak)

### SASI Program of the Year

Canoe-Kayak

### Freemason's Award (for country athletes)

Matthew Benson (Cycling)

Tom Sullivan (Rowing)

### Athlete with a Disability Award

Matthew Cowdrey (Swimming)

### ACE Award (ACE is the SASI Athlete Career and Education program)

Alex Bubner (Athletics)

### Program Athlete of the Year Awards

Athletics	Mark Ormrod
Baseball	Chris Doyle
Basketball	Georgia Minear
Canoe/Kayak	Hannah Davis
Cycling	Jack Bobridge
Diving	Hayley Taeuber
Men's Football	Joseph Costa
Women's Football	Angela Fimmano
Hockey	Holly Evans
Men's Gymnastics	Sean O'Hara
Netball	Kate Shimmin
Rowing	Chris Morgan
Sailing	James Paterson
Swimming	Hayden Stoeckel
Tennis	Luke Saville
Trampoline	Ben Wilden
Volleyball	Olivia Orchard
Water Polo	Isobel Bishop