

# The Leader SPORT

The Barossa's best coverage!



## Prince of Petanque

By Alicia Ludi-Schutz

Nuriootpa teen, Luke Randall has done the Barossa proud, bringing home gold for Australia in the Junior Trans Tasman Petanque Championships.

The only South Australian to be selected for the team of four under 23 year olds, Luke travelled to NSW last month as the youngest player in the group.

But age was no barrier for the Gawler Petanque Club member who was sponsored by the Barossa Valley Ford Club.

Competing against New Zealand's finest young players, the 17 year old won 8 out of the 10 games he played in.

Luke won all his singles and triples games and won two out of the four doubles games he played in during the two day event in Newcastle.

The result was a massive victory to the Australian Juniors, 29 points to New Zealand, 11.

The Nuriootpa High School Year 12 student can now admire the perpetual Trans Tasman Cup for three months before handing it over to fellow team mates to share around for the remainder of the year.

Luke discovered the French sport after watching a petanque demonstration at an Adelaide animal expo he attended back in 2008 when he was 12. He purchased a set of boules and hasn't looked back since.

But for Luke, petanque is not just a competitive game of strategy and skill, it's also great fun.

He encouraged his mother, Margaret to play in the Club because she drove him to Gawler for training all the time anyway. He also admits it's something he and his mother can enjoy without his five older sisters.

"I like the socialising, I like playing just for the fun of it," he said.



**WINNER:** Luke Randall, of Nuriootpa was part of the four strong Australian team that won the Junior Trans Tasman Petanque Championships.

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