

VIBE ACTIVITIES

Ben takes centre stage (Ben Barba) page 9

Upon receiving his Dally M Medal as the NRL's top player in 2012, Ben Barba admitted he never thought it could have been possible.

"My size was an issue for me. I always thought I was never big enough. And I'm not going to lie now: I still see some of those big blokes on the field and think, 'I'll avoid them'. But eventually they'll get tired. You just have to keep running," said Ben on Dally M night.

After being frustratingly held back from first grade, despite breaking a bunch of Bulldogs point scoring records in the lower grades – Ben had to persevere against doubts about his size, and ability to match it physically with the NRL's elite players.

Jump forward to the 2012 season, just a few short years later – and it's no wonder Ben is still grasping the magnitude of this achievement, and how quickly it has arrived. Only 12 months ago, not many would have predicted just how rapidly the young player's star would rise, but

under the coaching of Des Hasler, Ben has dominated the competition this year thanks to his uncanny attacking and try scoring ability and competent defense – making him an exceptional all-round footballer.

On what will surely be one of the great nights of the young fullbacks' career, he scooped no less than four awards at the Dally M presentation night in Sydney, winning not only the major award of the night in the Dally M itself – but also the Fullback of the Year Award, the Provan-Summons People's Choice Award and the Peter Frilingos Memorial Award.

Ben was a runaway winner for the Dally M with 32 votes in all. His nearest competition, Matt Bowen, finished six points adrift. It was a big night for Indigenous football – three out of the top four players in the Dally M race were Indigenous – with Johnathan Thurston ranking fourth.

Ben now joins the likes of Cliff Lyons, Laurie Daley, Preston Campbell and Johnathan Thurston as Indigenous players to have won rugby league's most prestigious award.

Byte Size

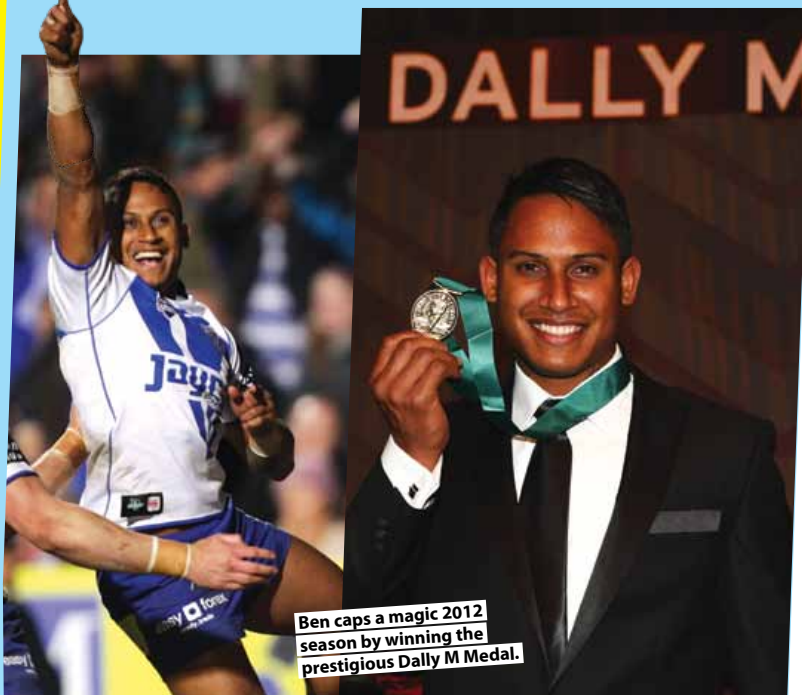
Two Indigenous athletes are competing at the London Paralympics this month. 15-year-old **Amanda Fowler** from Blaxland in New South Wales will swim for Australia in the S14 classification for athletes with an intellectual impairment. Amanda was selected for the Games after winning seven gold medals at the 2011 Global Games in Italy. **Torita Isaac** from Queensland will represent the country in athletics and has prepared for the competition while completing her Year 12 certificate. She suffers from cerebral palsy and is legally blind and will compete in the T38 class.

The late **Jimmy Little's** 1963 classic song 'Royal Telephone' has been included in the National Film and Sound Archive's National Registry of Recorded Sound. The registry is a selection of sound recordings with cultural, historical and aesthetic significance to life in Australia.

The **number of indigenous students** in higher education has jumped by more than 40 per cent over the past five years, but Aboriginal people remain under-represented at Australian universities.

The **2012 Bush Bands Bash** is nine years old this year and will be taking place on Friday 7 September at 'The Hub' - Anzac Oval, Alice Springs. The concert is one of the highlights of the Alice Desert Festival calendar and each year musicians from all over Central Australia compete for a spot in the line-up. The 2012 Bush Bands Bash line up is: Sunshine Reggae (Haasts Bluff, NT); South East Desert Metal (Santa Teresa, NT); Sandridge Band (Borrooloola, NT); Irrunytju Band (Wingellina, WA); Central Reggae Band (Fregon, SA); Desert Mulga (Nyirripi, NT). Special guests are Tjupi Band (Papunya, NT) and Blackstone Band (Blackstone, WA).

Ben takes centre stage in big night for Indigenous league



Ben caps a magic 2012 season by winning the prestigious Dally M Medal.

Ben Barba recently won the Dally M Award for the best player in the NRL.

He was born in Darwin, Northern Territory.

Read *Ben takes centre stage* on page 9



Fullback Ben Barba plays for Sydney's Canterbury- Bankstown Bulldogs

ACTIVITY 1

READING FOR MEANING

Building reading skills

- skimming and scanning for information.
- reading headings, text boxes and pictures.
- reading for meaning.
- making connections between the text and your world.

There are three levels of comprehension questions:

- Literal** The answer is located in one sentence in the text.
- Inferred** You need to make links between sentences and graphics (such as illustrations, maps and tables) and what you already know.
- Applied** The answer is in your background knowledge, what you already know or feel.

1 What award did Ben Barba recently win?

(literal)

- Deadly Award
- Bulldogs Player of the Year Award
- Des Hasler Award
- Dally M Medal



2 Which other Indigenous players have also won the Dally M Award? (inferred)

- Laurie Daley
- Cliff Lyons
- Jonathan Thurston
- all of the above



3 Name one other Indigenous player who has won the Dally M Award. (inferred)



4 What was one reason that Ben Barba didn't think he would be successful in rugby league? (inferred)

- he thought he was too small.
- he thought he was too heavy.
- he didn't think he was a good enough player.
- he didn't want to put in the training needed.



5 The text says, "Ben was a runaway winner for the Dally M." In this sentence, "runaway winner" means (inferred)

- he ran out from the awards dinner.
- he was way out in front of the nearest point scorers.
- he didn't think he deserved to win the award.
- it was a difficult competition to win.

6 The purpose for adding the pictures to the written text is to (applied)



ACTIVITY 2

LANGUAGE CONVENTIONS - SPELLING

- 1** The spelling mistakes in these sentences have been underlined. Write the correct spelling for each word in the box.

Ben Barba won the rugby league meddle.

He defeeted some talented competitors.

It was a very speshal week.



- 2** Each sentence has one word that is incorrect. Write the correct spelling of the word in the box.

He broak all the records.

It is a most prestidjus award.

He was proud of his acheevement.

ACTIVITY 3

LANGUAGE CONVENTIONS - GRAMMAR

- 1** Which word correctly completes the sentence?

_____ he was up against some tough competition, he won it.

- Even though
- While
- So
- However



2 Which word correctly completes the sentence?

He _____ he didn't think it was possible.

- admit
- admitting
- admits
- admitted



3 Which word or words are **verbs** in this sentence?

Ben has dominated the competition this year thanks to his uncanny attacking and try-scoring ability.

- Ben, competition, year
- dominated
- has, the
- this, his

4 What does the pronoun **it** refer to in this sentence?

Ben Barba admitted he never though **it** could have been possible.

- playing rugby league
- playing for the Bulldogs
- winning the Dally M Award
- going to the awards night



ACTIVITY 4

LANGUAGE CONVENTIONS – PUNCTUATION

1 Punctuate this passage correctly. Correct two (2) spelling errors.

Write your answer on the lines.

it was a big nite out for indigenou football three out of the top fore players in the dally m race were indigenou with jonathan thurston ranked fourth im thrilled with the award said an excited ben barba at the awards

ACTIVITY 5

UNSCRAMBLE THESE RUGBY LEAGUE WORDS

Write your answer in the table.

YTR	
CERRSO	
AYENLPT	
ACCOH	
TTIIOOMCPEN	
DAAWR	

ACTIVITY 6

WRITING AN EXPOSITION



An **Exposition** is a type of argument text that states **one** point of view about an issue. **Expositions** use persuasive language to put forward the argument.

Expositions begin by stating the Thesis, and then give different Arguments to the point of view, concluding with a Restatement to sum up the arguments.

Here's how an **Exposition** is structured:

Argument type	Social purpose	Stages	Phases
Exposition	argues one point of view about an issue	Thesis	preview
		Arguments	evidence statistics quotes examples elaborations
		Restatement	review conclusions

Topic:
Write Ben Barba's speech to explain why he deserved to win the Dally M Award.

Think about:

- examples, statistics, elaborations and other evidence to support your ideas.

Remember to:

- research your topic and plan your writing.
- choose your arguments carefully.
- give reasons for your arguments.
- give examples to support your arguments.
- write in sentences.
- pay attention to your spelling and punctuation.
- use a new paragraph for each new idea.
- choose your words carefully to convince a reader of your opinions.
- check and edit your writing so that it is clear for a reader.