



# Boccia boys have a blast

TANUNDA Primary School students Jack Braunack and Brodie Healy are leading the way in the sport of boccia.

The pair recently competed in Sydney for the New South Wales junior titles, which are also considered as national titles.

A mix of petanque and lawn bowls, the aim of boccia is to roll coloured leather balls as close as possible to a white target ball.

The balls can be rolled with the hands or feet, or if the competitor's disability is severe, even with an assistive device such as a ramp, making the sport available for everyone.

Jack, eight, and Brodie, 10, were both discovered to have a talent for the game at a Boccia Schools Day, just six months ago.

The boys were among the youngest players at the Sydney tournament, but still achieved excellent results, both finishing in the top six.

"We both did really well," said Brodie.

Boccia is normally a team sport, but for the titles, each player was considered on their own results.

While the pair said they both enjoyed the tournament, they loved the experience and are already looking forward to upcoming boccia

camps at the start of next year.

"It was awesome," said Jack.

The pair has also won a best and fairest at a combined schools competition, where they won a boccia set for their school.

SA development co-ordinator for the Australian Paralympic Committee, Cathy Lambert, said Jack and Brodie had a bright future in boccia, especially if they could practice more regularly.

"They have got a really good sporting brain and as young as they are, they understand strategy, they understand tactics and ball-placement, which is phenomenal for their age and they can only improve on that," she said.

"The fact they have already got what would make a good boccia player is quite exciting."

Ms Lambert said boccia was a sport anyone could get involved in.

"There are so many other kids in the Barossa that would be eligible to play boccia, I really would love to see us develop a club in the Barossa...that way it would help these boys have regular play, but there are also so many opportunities for other kids."

Anyone interested in trying boccia can call Cathy Lambert on 0419 729 600.



ON THE JACK: Jack and Brodie relive the Sydney tournament with a quick game of boccia after school.