

The Post On track for success

Maitland teen set to represent Australia in orienteering

aitland Grossman High School student, Nicola Blatchford, will soon be pounding the wild trails of Europe with map and compass in hand, after being selected to represent Australia at the Junior World Orienteering Championships (JWOC) in the Czech Republic this July.

The 17-year-old Ashtonfield resident finished a respectable sixth out of 19 competitors in the Elite Junior Women's class at the Gold 'n Ponds orienteering event in Bendigo over Easter to qualify for the

international event.

Miss Blatchford said she was looking forward to competing at the top level, having watched her older brother, Josh, take part in previous JWOC events in Italy and Poland.

"It's really exciting," she said.
"I probably would never think of going to the Czech Republic normally."

As well as competing at the JWOC in the city of Hradec Králové in the Czech Republic, Miss Blatchford will travel with her parents and older brother – all keen orienteers - to the World Orienteering Championships in Finland to compete in

spectator races.

The family will also take part in another competition in Northern Sweden before returning to Australia.

Miss Blatchford said she would love to continue orienteering in the future and is

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Nicola Blatchford training for the Junior World Orienteering Championships.

 $considering\ joining\ her\ older\ brother-now$ living in Sweden – in Europe to be closer to the elite competition circuit.

"I hope to keep on doing it and maybe I

can go to the World Champs when I get older but it would be really good to go overseas and to compete there," Miss Blatchford said. The JWOC is on from June 29 to July 6.

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