

# Natalie runs rule over opposition

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Natalie Rule is making great strides in athletics. IT'S been a busy year for talented middle-distance runner Natalie Rule.

The 12-year-old Balwyn resident placed first in two Victorian Youth Track and Field Championship events (under 14 800m and 1500m) at Olympic Park on February 28.

She took home gold again on March 21 and 22 in the Victorian Little Athletics State Track and Field Championships 800m race, and was third in the 1500m.

Natalie was chosen to compete with the under-13 Victorian team in the Australian Little Athletics Championships in Adelaide on April 26, placing second in the 800m event.

The Ruyton Girls' School student said she was "very excited" with her recent wins.

The "joy of running and making new friends" kept her motivated to train three times a week with Doncaster Little Athletics and Doncaster Athletics Clubs, she said.

Natalie's times have qualified her for the Australian All Schools Track and Field Championships in Hobart in December. Natalie's mother Louise described her as a "humble achiever".

Natalie is a Progress Leader junior Sports Star award nominee.