

Confident on cabinet post



Peter Batchelor

Saeed Saeed

PETER Batchelor has sought to quash rumours he will stand aside before the next election.

The future of the Thomastown MP had been

the subject of media speculation after it was recently reported he would be part of a pre-election ministerial clear-out.

Mr Batchelor brushed the rumours aside, pointing to the Premier's recent en-

dorsement of his ministers. "The Premier put to rest any speculation about a cabinet reshuffle last week when he said he had no plans to change the front bench and he had 100 per cent confidence in the team," he said.

But Mr Batchelor was uncertain on whether he would keep his Energy and Resources portfolio.

"Having started the process of getting ready for the introduction of the carbon pollution reduction scheme I

would be keen to continue," he said.

"But at the end of the day the allocation of portfolios is the decision of the Premier."

Since 1990, Mr Batchelor has served six terms as the member for Thomastown.

It's tough kicking with the best

BUNDOORA

karate instructor Brad Draper has matched it with the world's best martial artists in a blistering display at the International Sport Karate Association World Cup in Sydney.

In just his second competitive tournament in three years, Draper, 36, carved his way through a field of fellow black belts to claim top three placings.

Draper finished second in the 80kg-plus open division for non-contact point sparring, and third in a full contact event.

The black belt finished his first fight in the Koshiki (full contact sparring) in less than 10 seconds, delivering a knock-out jumping reverse punch against his US com-



petitor, before falling to a New Zealand fighter in a tense three-minute battle.

Draper recovered to claim third place in a points decision.

In the Kumite (non-contact sparring), Draper won his way through to the final, before being defeated in another close match.

The Sho do Kan and Hapkito expert was pleased with the results, particularly in the full-contact division.

"It was different to the full-contact fighting events I had done so it was a good learning experience," he said.



Brad Draper has claimed medals at the ISKA World Cup in Sydney.

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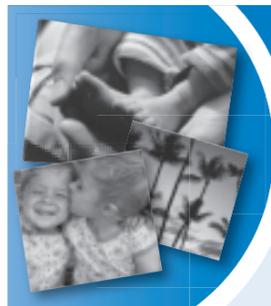
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