

Casino siblings skilled in whitewater

ALISON PATERSON

THREE canoe slalom siblings from Casino showed blistering form at the 2020 Paddle Australia National Championships.

Casey Ellis, 18, brother Declan, 17 and sister Callie, 15, were competing alongside father and daughter duo Ally, 15, and Brian Cork, 46, from Coffs Harbour.

While Callie won one gold and one bronze medal, her brothers each brought home four silver and one bronze medal. Between them all, Casino High School finished third in the overall schools rankings.

The championships took place at two events – the Canoe Slalom Age Championships held on the Upper Mersey River in Tasmania on January 4-5, and the Canoe Slalom National Championships, held at the Penrith Whitewater Stadium on January 9-12.

Declan took two second place

finishes in the U18 K1 and C1, which Casey mirrored with his two second place finishes in the C1 and K1 U23s category.

The brothers teamed up with Emir Mujcinovic of Baulkham Hills to finish first in the Open Men's C1 team event.

Meanwhile Callie and Ally took out gold in the U16s Women's C2, and then joined forces with former North Coast resident Miranda Pulkinnen to finish third in the Open Women's K1 teams.

Casey and Declan have been selected for the NSW slalom team to compete at the 2020 Australian Open, held on February 21-23 in Penrith.

Declan was selected to the 2020 National Development Squad for national training camps and will be competing in New Zealand.

He aims for selection in the National Junior Team at the Australian Open and hopes to go on to contest the 2020 Junior World Championships in Slovenia.



CANOE CHAMPS: Main photo: Casino's Casey Ellis in white water action at the 2020 Paddle Australia National Championships earlier this month. **INSET:** Declan Ellis on the water.

PictureS: CONTRIBUTED