

COMMONWEALTH GAMES

Roberts ready for big stage

GLASGOW AWAITS RUNNER

Matt Turner

RIDGEHAVEN para-athlete Sean Roberts has never been overseas nor taken part in an international competition.

That will change next month when he heads to Glasgow, Scotland with the Australian squad for the Commonwealth Games.

The 21 year old, who has cerebral palsy and limited movement in the right side of his body, will compete in the T37 100m sprint.

"I'm pretty pumped at the moment," Roberts says.

"It's a bit overwhelming.

"I've never even been overseas, even for a holiday, so it's huge.

"Being my first international competition and my first Commonwealth Games, it's a big honour.

"It's one of those things that you never think you'll actually get there.

"To wear the green and gold has been my childhood dream and it's come true."

Roberts started at Tea Tree Gully Athletics Club when he was three years old.

After missing selection for the 2012 London Paralym-

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pics in the long jump, he switched his focus to the sprint.

"It was a hard pill to swallow but I had to get on with it."

Roberts says has been seeing a sports psychologist to help him prepare for running in front of large crowds on such a big stage.

"The biggest crowd I've probably run in front of is about 2000 (people), so to go and run in front of 80,000 will be pretty overwhelming.

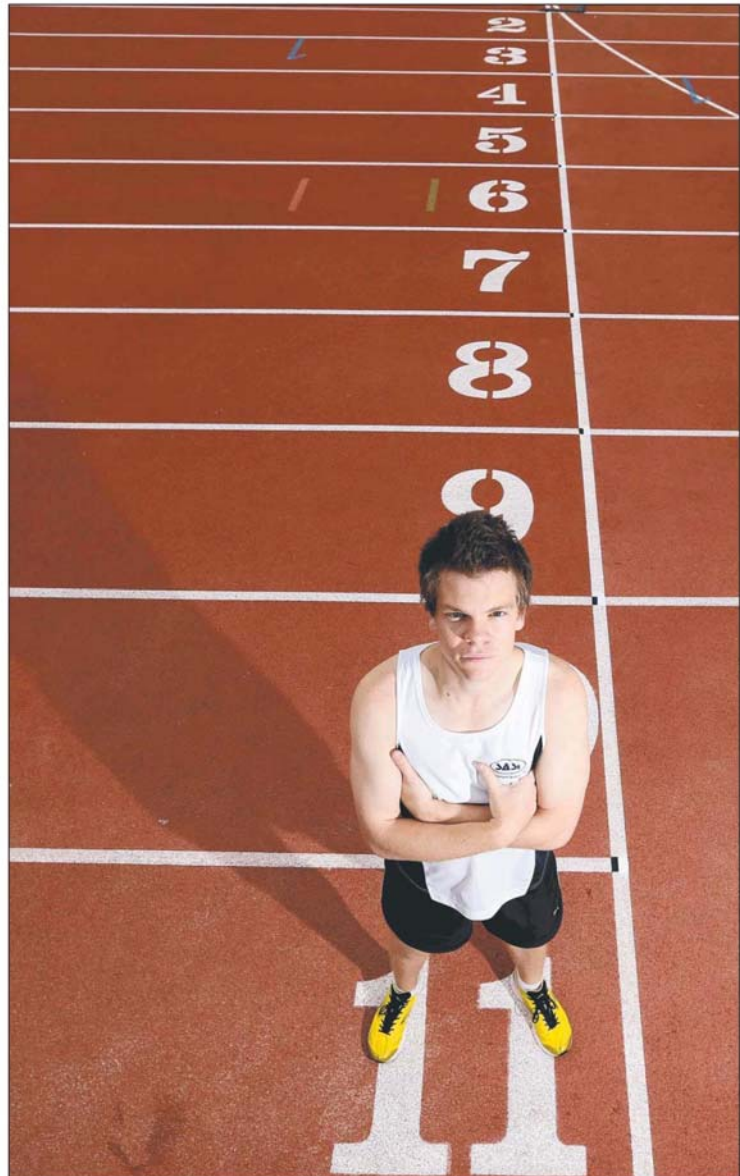
"It's about not letting the moment slip."

Roberts will compete in a three-day competition on the Gold Coast before attending a week-long training camp in Newcastle, UK.

He aims to make the final in Glasgow.

"I'm in the fittest and strongest position I've probably ever been.

"I'll see what happens."



Sean Roberts, who has cerebral palsy, is set for the Commonwealth Games. Picture: Tait Schmaal