



A delighted Bert le Clos accepted the KwaZulu-Natal Newsmaker of the Year award on behalf of his swimming star son, Chad, at a function at the Durban City Hall last night. With him is Professor Ahmed Bawa, vice-chancellor of DUT, who made the award. Chad is currently competing in Moscow.

PICTURE: LAUREN RAWLINS

Golden boy Chad is newsmaker of the year

Lauren Rawlins

THE 2013 KwaZulu-Natal Newsmaker of the Year award went to Olympic swimming gold-medallist Chad le Clos at a function in the Durban City Hall last night.

This was after the KZN public – once again – decided, for the third consecutive year, that sport headlines were what grabbed their attention.

Last year, the award was won by the AmaZulu Football Club and in 2011, it was crick-

eter Hashim Amla. The event was hosted by the Durban University of Technology (DUT) in association with the eThekwinini municipality.

The candidates were a mix of newsworthy individuals and events that stood out for the public over the past year.

The other nominees included:

- The provincial government's response to storms last year.
- The eThekwinini municipality for hosting the Brics

summit and the Afcon soccer tournament.

- The KZN road to Mangaung, with ANC president Jacob Zuma's re-election.

Programme director Alan Khan admitted to the audience that the night Le Clos won gold was probably the first time he had kissed a plasma TV screen.

Le Clos's dad, "Big Bert", collected the award on his behalf, as Le Clos was in Moscow at the Fina World Cup.

Bert said that his swimming sensation son would be hon-

oured and thanked the public for voting for him.

The event was a celebration of the newsmakers as well as journalists, said Professor Ahmed Bawa, vice-chancellor and principal of DUT.

The media was a crucial part of everyday life, said eThekwinini mayor James Nxumalo.

Spokesman for eThekwinini Thabo Mofokeng said: "This event is an opportunity for the public to make their voices heard on who matters most to them."