



# Academy signs new talent

BEN PAPALIA

IT has taken months of sifting through impressive CVs and resumes, but the South West Academy of Sport has finally appointed its chief executive officer.

South African Bernice Butlion, who is the current manager of the Eastern Cape Academy, has been given the task of guiding the region's most talented athletes.

Having worked in community sport for five years prior to her involvement

in high performance sport at the Eastern Academy, Butlion said she was looking forward to working in the Australian sporting realm.

"I saw this as an opportunity to work in a structured sporting environment where success starts with the involvement of the community," she said.

"Australians have a winning culture in sport and I wanted to become involved in it.

"I'm looking forward to working in an environment where the common

characteristics of a successful sporting nation already have a clear understanding about the roles of these academies.

"I am especially looking forward to putting structures into place that will develop the region's talented athletes."

Butlion also said she hoped to guide South West athletes onto the national or international stage.

"My biggest hope would be that athletes from the region can achieve Australian or global success," she said.

"I see this being obtained through a

collective vision for high performance sport, effective leadership, and establishment of performance targets.

"I would hope to feed athletes from the SWAS into the WA Institute of sport where they can achieve their highest sporting accolades."

Butlion said she and her family were looking forward to living in Australia and the opportunity to experience a new culture.

SWAS board chairman Don Punch welcomed Butlion's appointment adding her experience would be an asset to

the academy.

"Bernice has a wealth of experience in sport, including setting up a similar sports academy in South Africa, and will be a great addition to the team," Punch said.

"We look forward to seeing her take the academy forward and making it a success."

Punch said the SWAS was going to have a big impact on the identification and development of local sports stars of the future, as well as contribute to talent development for existing sports in the region.

## Valuable support

DALE Alcock South West homes has donated a generous \$10,000 to the South West Academy of Sport to further develop its commitment to regional sport.

Dale Alcock homes managing director Graham Teede presented SWAS chairman Don Punch with the funds earlier this week.

Teede said Dale Alcock homes plans to commit \$30,000 to the academy over the next three years.

"Hopefully these funds will help the academy during its start up period," Teede said.

"We decided to donate because the academy promotes healthy activity and is youth orientated.

"This academy also helps keep the region's most talented athletes from travelling to Perth."

The donation, which was made through the Australian Sports Foundation, was welcomed by Mr Punch, who said the funds would go towards developing and feeding the academy's needs.

"It's great that local companies and businesses right across the region are showing support for this unique and exciting initiative that will benefit local athletes," Punch said.

"Generous contributions from businesses such as Dale Alcock Homes South West are making the academy a reality.

"To have a company with this reputation to support the academy is a real bonus, and will go a long way in making the academy a success."



Dale Alcock South West homes managing director Graham Teede, left, discusses the company's \$10,000 donation to the South West Academy of Sport with academy chairman Don Punch. PICTURE: NORMAN BAILEY

## Academy scholarship criteria is being finalised

FOLLOWING the announcement of the South West Academy of Sport's inaugural intake of four main sporting codes, academy board member Tom Busher said the next step would revolve around finalising scholarships.

Football, hockey, soccer and basketball were chosen as the academy's four main sports, alth-

ough Busher said the final selection criteria for scholarships was still being confirmed.

"We are still working out the final criteria for the scholarships and they will open up towards the end of the year," Busher said.

"Although the four main sports will be the main partners, the indi-

vidual scholarship program will generally deal with athletes outside of those four codes.

"Ideally, we want to help as many kids as we can."

The academy is expected to offer up to 50 scholarships each year to talented athletes in a variety of sports, with the first crop to be

awarded later this year.

Busher also said the academy was currently in the process of finalising a coaching program for the four main sporting groups.

The academy will use the South West Sports Centre in Bunbury as its administrative centre and also utilise facilities at the centre for athlete training programs.

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