

South West Academy of Sport
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swas south west academy of sport



South West Academy of Sport chief executive officer Bernice Butllon and Bunbury councillor Helen Punch display the academy's new shirts.

Councillor a staunch supporter of talent

A DESIRE to help young people achieve their goals has led to a City of Bunbury councillor making her third donation to the South West Academy of Sport.

A supporter of the not-for-profit organisation since its infancy, Helen Punch said she was proud to provide funding on behalf of the City of Bunbury that would benefit the academy's athletes and their pursuit of sporting excellence.

"Before the academy was established, I had heard of families who would take their kids up to Perth sev-

eral times a week to train," Cr Punch said.

"It just seemed to make sense if we could run the programs down here."

Cr Punch's support has helped the academy provide local talent development pathways in basketball, football, hockey and soccer, as well an individual scholarship program.

"With 24 per cent of the academy's inaugural intake of athletes coming from the City of Bunbury, there are some very talented individuals living in the area," she said.

Young stars tested at footy camp

THE South West's next generation of potential football stars were put through their paces at a camp in Busselton earlier this month.

As part of an induction to the 2009-10 South West Academy of Sport football program, the athletes spent a Sunday fine-tuning their planning, goal setting and communication skills.

SWAS head football coach Mark Skehan said the athletes competed in a series of competitions including sea kayak races, accuracy kicking and a running obstacle course.

"The players responded well to all challenges set for them throughout the day and the coaches thoroughly enjoyed interacting with the talented football players from the South West," he said.

"It was a positive beginning to the football program."



South West Academy of Sport footballers experienced some team bonding at a recent camp in Busselton.



South West Academy of Sport football athletes cool down after a hard training session. SWAS head football coach Mark Skehan took the athletes on a recent football camp to Busselton.

SWAS scholarships on offer for athletes

THE South West Academy of Sport is once again giving up-and-coming athletes the opportunity to take their game to the next level through a scholarship.

For the second consecutive year, scholarships are being offered to outstanding young athletes whose sport is not covered by the academy's partner programs of Australian Rules football, soccer, basketball and hockey.

SWAS chief executive officer Bernice Butllon said scholarships would benefit athletes who were excelling in their field and had been selected for State or national squads, teams or events.

"In its first year, the South West Academy of Sport's individual athlete program provided the necessary support to help 10 promising athletes rise through the ranks," he said.

"Many of these athletes excelled and went on to compete at State, national or international events."

The current round of scholarships is available to South West residents aged 14 to 18.

Applications are available from the SWAS office by emailing info@swaswa.com.au or by visiting www.swaswa.com.au. Applications close at 4.30pm on December 1.

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