



Roadshow coming to town

PEOPLE around the region will have the opportunity to learn more about the South West Academy of Sport in the coming months.

The SWAS board, which oversees management of the academy, will sit in Margaret River on June 25 and Manjimup on August 27.

SWAS chief executive Bernice Butlion said members of the public were invited to meet board members prior to and after the regional meetings and discover how the academy is helping local athletes achieve their goals.

"The board recently held one of its monthly meetings in Collie and is looking forward to giving even more

Academy hockey teens make State team

THE benefits from the South West Academy of Sport continue to shine brightly, with a host of hockey academy athletes being chosen for the 2009 Under-16 State school hockey team. Aimee Harris, Courtney Barton, Montanna Randell, Craig Leknys and Ben Johnston have made the squad

after impressing selectors in recent trials. The Under-16 boys championships will be held in August in Rockhampton, Queensland, and the Under-16 girls in Townsville. SWAS chief executive officer Bernice Butlion praised the athletes, and wished them well for the championships.

sporting enthusiasts around the region the chance to participate in SWAS activities," she said.

"The academy has come a long way since it was launched in July last year

and the roadshow will provide a good opportunity for people to hear about recent developments.

"We now have four partner sports programs — in football, soccer, bas-

ketball and hockey — up and running, plus an individual scholarship program.

"There are currently 147 athletes from throughout the region, including

the Margaret River and Manjimup areas, training through SWAS.

"Many of them are achieving exciting results and competing on the State, national and world stages."

Butlion said the SWAS board is made up of a team of regional leaders committed to providing the best training and opportunities for athletes.

"Holding the meetings in Margaret River and Manjimup will give people a chance to meet board members and ask them questions about SWAS programs," she said.

"Sporting groups and businesses might like to see how they can get involved with SWAS."

Athletes in studio spotlight

TELEVISION viewers might notice some familiar faces when the South West Academy of Sport's latest advertisement goes to air.

SWAS athletes Aimee Harris, Tyler Hickert, Brayden Lawler and Tash Rigby travelled to a Perth television studio on May 20 to film a commercial alongside West Coast Eagles premiership player Adam Hunter.

The AFL star and SWAS football patron kindly donated his time to the project and took the young athletes on a tour of West Coast's facilities at Subiaco Oval once filming wrapped.

It was a day to remember for the athletes, including Margaret River soccer talent Rigby.

"I really enjoyed filming the television commercial, it was a completely new experience for me — a lot of fun," she said.

The advertisement is designed to further help SWAS attract future athletes from across the South West.

● In other SWAS news, a quiz night will be held to help raise money for scholarship rowing athletes David Prosser and Alex Hagan and their coach Jamie Jones as they gear up for the Junior World Rowing Championships.

The quiz will be held at Bunbury Rowing Club tomorrow night at 7.30pm, with tickets \$10 a head. Contact Sandy Prosser on 0417 218 197.



Aimee Harris, left, Tyler Hickert, Brayden Lawler, Adam Hunter and Tash Rigby receive direction during filming of the new SWAS television commercial.

Footy legend Wiley for training session

SOUTH West Academy of Sport football players will have the opportunity to train under Perth football legend Rob Wiley next month.

A high-performance coach for the WA Football Commission, Wiley is considered one of the game's greats and will use his wealth of experience to help guide up-

and-coming players during a training session at Bunbury's Hands Oval at 4.30pm on June 8.

Highlights of Wiley's career include playing in a VFL grand final for Richmond in 1980, winning eight fairest and best awards at the Perth Football Club, and being a player and assistant coach for the West Coast Eagles.

SWAS head football coach Mark Skehan welcomed the opportunity to have Wiley run drills for local football players.

"Rob has played and coached at the highest level and the players will no doubt gain from his experience," he said.

"He currently oversees the State Under-16s and -18s programs

so he will give the boys an insight into the requirements to make these squads.

"South West coaches have been invited to observe training and they will gain tips on the latest drills, with a view to further sharing this knowledge with players and coaches at clubs across the region."

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