

FOUR local surfers and a netball player have been recognised through the South West Academy of Sport 2010 scholarships.

Surfers Matt Baldock, Laura and Bronte Macaulay and Creed McTaggart and netballer Ingrid Colyer were among the South West recipients.

Now in its second year, the individual scholarship program helps promising young athletes to realise their dreams in sport by providing high level support, including access to specialist services such as nutritionists and sport psychologists.

SWAS chief executive officer Bernice Butlion said the academy had awarded 20 scholarships this year, up 10 from 2009.

"This is in recognition of the strength and number of the applicants," she said.

"The pool of talent in the South West is amazing and we wanted to acknowledge and support as much of the talent coming up through the ranks as possible."

Butlion said sport had become highly competitive and SWAS recognised the need to identify individuals who demonstrated exemplary standards in their sports.

"Achieving sporting success at national and international levels takes more than talent and hard work," she said.

"We hope these scholarships help the athletes on their path to success."

An induction for the scholarship recipients was held on February 25.