



International hockey action is headed to Bunbury. Pictured is Emily Hurtz. *Picture: Treeby Images*

Five international opponents face off

THE biggest hockey series to ever hit the South West is coming up at the end of the month and what a weekend it is going to be.

The International Hockey Series cup will be held across the October long-weekend with five teams heading to the Bunbury Hockey Association.

The Australian Hockeyroos and Kookaburras will proudly represent the country as they take on China, Pakistan and India in a five-game cup that is sure to thrill hockey fans and entice sporting enthusiasts.

Organiser Dean Lomax said people had plenty to look forward to.

"We will have five of the top world hockey teams coming to our town," he said.

"Everyone is very excited – it's something most could only wish for."

Lomax said that the event would be a fantastic experience not just for hockey fans, but for everyone across the community.

"The top players in the world will be in our backyard," he said.

"When you have something of that calibre whether you're a hockey fanatic or interested in sports it's always

going to be a fantastic event for everyone."

The series will begin in Busselton on the Wednesday night and then comes to Bunbury on Sunday.

The day will start with a junior clinic at 9am, the South West Strikers versus South West Academy of Sport game at 10.45am and then all the action will begin with the Hockeyroos playing against China from 1pm.

There will also be games on Monday and Tuesday nights.

Lomax said the Sunday activities would be fantastic for people heading home after a long weekend away.

"People can finish their weekend with top quality sport which will finish in time to head home for an early night before work the next day," he said.

Tickets are on sale for the event now and can be purchased at Sportsfirst in Bunbury or from the Bunbury Hockey Stadium.

Cost for a one day pass is \$10 or three day pass is \$20. Tickets on sale at the gate will be for \$15 for a day pass. Children under 15 are free.

Visit www.bunburyhockey.org.au or call 9795 5160 for more information.

Exciting times for local hockey community

FOR local South West Academy of Sport players the International Hockey Series is going to be a fantastic opportunity to show the world what they are made of.

Coach of the Academy hockey squad Matt Mellor said he was eager to see the boys and girls out on the turf.

"It's going to be great for the young kids to see their heroes who you could never expect to see in your own backyard," he said.

"It's not very often you have five international teams coming to a regional area."

Mellor said it was going to be a fantastic learning experience for local players.

"Our squad hardly ever get to play together and having them in this series will be a great experience for them," he said.

"They will also get to watch the best in the world which is incredible."

Mellor said that the competition appeal was not limited to hockey fans.

"I have a couple of mates who don't watch hockey much but are coming down," he said.

"It's going to be awesome and definitely something for everyone."