

Olympic rivalry on show in Bunbury

HOCKEY: The Bunbury and Districts Hockey Stadium will be alive with Olympic fever when the Kookaburras take on arch-rivals the Netherlands in a test match next Wednesday.

Memories of their last meeting at the Beijing Olympics will be fresh in the players' minds, as the Kookaburras emerged victorious 6-2 in the Bronze medal match.

Bunbury Hockey Association President Rob McNab is busy making preparations for the night, which he expects to receive a huge amount of support.

"People holidaying in Bunbury have shown great interest in coming along to the match and Bunbury has a very strong hockey community, so I expect a good turnout."

Mr McNab said.

Last September saw the completion of the new synthetic hockey pitch at the Bunbury stadium, which is the same as the turf played on at the Beijing Olympics.

"It will be the first test played on the new pitch, and it is the only one like it in Australia." Mr McNab said. "The ball runs truer, the bounce is more consistent and it makes for a much faster game."

The night will open with a curtain-raiser match between the Hotspurs Allstars and the South West Academy of Sport team, which will give the teams an exciting opportunity to introduce the international competition.

In conjunction with the event will be the

running of a 'Hook in2 Hockey Super Clinic' for aspiring hockey players aged 5 to 12.

"(The clinic) will give the next generation of sports stars a chance to pick up tips and rub shoulders with the Australian team. The entire Kookaburras squad and Australian coaching staff will be involved and the Bunbury Hockey Stadium will play host to the clinic." Mr McNab said.

The Hook in2 Hockey Super Clinic will take place on Monday January 19 and will commence at 5:30pm.

Tickets for the test match series will be available at the gate, from Ticketmaster and at Neavesey Sports at Albert Lane in the Homemaker Centre.