

Butcher passes on advice

FORMER South West Striker and Boyanup hockey player Jason Butcher returned home this week in his new role as Hockeyroos assistant coach to lend a hand at the South West Academy of Sport.

Butcher, 33, who is the son of South West football coach Peter Butcher, received his appointment with the Hockeyroos late last year after a call from head coach Frank Murray.

Butcher and Murray coincided a visit to the South West this week with the Kookaburras and Netherlands Summer Series and conducted a clinic

with girls from the South West Academy of Sport and head hockey coach Matt Mellor at Bunbury Hockey Stadium yesterday morning.

"It's a bit of a homecoming for me, which is great," Butcher said.

"We are helping the academy out with a training session and making sure people are clear about how important the regional areas are to hockey.

"Hopefully I can show kids that they can achieve what they want and the opportunities are there if they are willing to make the sacrifice."

Butcher grew up in the Ferguson Valley and went to school at Dardanup while playing hockey for Boyanup and the Strikers.

He moved to the Northern Territory to play for the Stingers in the Australian Hockey League and also had a six-month stint in the English hockey Premier League, coaching junior World Cup players before injury cut his playing career short at the age of 26.

Butcher then turned his attention to full time coaching and completed the full circle on his return to the South West this week.



Hockeyroos assistant coach Jason Butcher offers tips to SWAS hockey squad members Emma Stonard, 16, and Keely Allsop, 14.