

Academy in touch with district sport

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MANJIMUP is passionate about its sporting pursuits as board members of the South West Academy of Sport discovered when it held an official board meeting in the town on Thursday.

The meeting, which was followed by a meet and greet with local athletes and clubs at the Manjimup Shire Council chambers, was the academy's approach to interacting with sporting communities in the South West, according to SWAS chief executive officer Bernice Butlion.

"At the end of the day it's the community that supports the academy which was set up to help the kids in the South West," Ms Butlion said.

The Bunbury-based academy has been holding a series of meetings across the region to gauge issues concern-

ing local sporting groups and to strengthen its profile as a regional leader in providing opportunities for aspiring athletes.

So far it has covered meetings in Collie, Augusta and Margaret River.

"We want to interact with and cover the whole of the South West and this is an opportunity where our board can come and address the community and any problems they might be having," Ms Butlion said.

"It is also a chance for us to know what sports are popular in these areas."

Ms Butlion expressed her desire to see more young athletes from Manjimup represented at the academy.

"Manjimup is very passionate about their sport and hence it is building up a rapport with the academy

which many acknowledge and want to be a part of. We are really excited about that," she said.

The meeting in Manjimup offered the board ideas on accessing financial support, while competing with other organisations for funding.

SWAS secured \$136,000 recently in Royalties for Regions funding, which Ms Butlion said would fund key sporting areas such as football, basketball, hockey and soccer, as well as helping athletes in individual pursuits.

The South West Academy of Sport is keen to strengthen its tradition of helping young athletes to achieve their goals through sponsorship.

For more information about supporting the academy, contact Ms Butlion on 9795 4504.



South West Academy of Sport board members held talks in Manjimup on Thursday. Front: SWAS board members Denise Jenkins and Cliff Anderson and academy CEO Bernice Butlion. Back: SWAS board members Wayne Vitali and Troy Jones, chairman Don Punch and vice-chairman Rolf Stene.