



Australian hockey coach Ric Charlesworth.

## Taste of the elite

LOCAL hockey players will have the opportunity to train like a Kookaburra when national men's coach Ric Charlesworth visits the South West next month as part of a tour that will see Australia host the Netherlands.

Various community programs including clinics, training sessions and forums will be conducted to coincide with the Kookaburras games against the Netherlands that are being held in Busselton on January 20 and Bunbury on January 21.

Department of Sport and Recreation Bunbury regional manager Troy Jones said the tour, which also includes a breakfast with Charlesworth, would bring world-class hockey to the region.

"The opportunity for the public to watch some of the best hockey players in the world play right here in the South West is fantastic," he said.

"On top of the two matches, there will be a range of community programs that will give local players, coaches and supporters the opportunity to get up close and personal with people such as Ric Charlesworth.

"The DSR is proud to support ventures such as this through the Country Sport Enrichment Scheme, which aims to bring high level sporting events to regional WA."

South West Academy of Sport chief executive Bernice Butlion said she was pleased local athletes would have the chance to train under Charlesworth.

"Ric has one of Australia's most successful coaching histories and was recently appointed to coach the national men's hockey team through to the 2012 London Olympics," she said.

Registrations for the breakfast open on January 8, 2009. To book a seat contact Bernice Butlion on 9795 4504 after January 8.