

2021-22

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Sketch Book

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SILVER: Bathurst Goldminers under 14s team after finishing second at the Country Championships on the June long weekend. Photo: CONTRIBUTED

Juniors come up short in country grand final

BASKETBALL
BY BRADLEY JURD

THEY might've not claimed gold, but Bathurst Goldminers under 14s coach Jade Pheils is still proud of her team's performance in the NSW Country Basketball Championships division three tournament over the June long weekend.

Held at Newcastle from June 12-14, Bathurst was drawn in a pool with Illawarra, Newcastle Academy, Port Macquarie and Maitland, achieving wins against all teams, before progressing from the quarter finals to the grand final, ultimately going

down to Lithgow Lazars in the decider.

All round, Pheils said she was proud of her team's performance at the country championships.

"We've had a bit of rough season, just learning the game. But they played exceptionally well on the weekend," she said.

"They came together and played really well as a team and started to believe in themselves and each other. They continued to build as a team throughout the tournament and that lead them to the grand final. We're very proud.

"My assistant coach Zoe

Burton and I are very proud in the fact that the boys dug in and didn't go missing when the games got tough.

We had a good weekend where we came away with a disappointing loss in the decider but it was a great result overall."

Bathurst started its campaign on Saturday with a 47-25 win over Illawarra, followed by a 47-16 victory over Newcastle Academy and a defeat of Port Macquarie 28-12.

On Sunday, Bathurst won its fourth and final pool game, comprehensively defeating Maitland 74-9 before backing up that day

for a 30-15 quarter final win over Illawarra.

Bathurst was drawn to play Port Macquarie again in the semi-final and it was a much closer game compared to the pool stage, with the Goldminers just getting home 26-25.

The grand final was held on the Monday too and Bathurst was no match for its local rivals, going down to Lithgow 40-17.

Pheils said it was a great learning experience for her team.

"We played in division three, which had 15 teams, so to come second in that division is a feat in itself,"

he said.

"Those teams ranged from Moss Vale, up as far as Port Macquarie and everywhere in between.

"There were a lot of bigger city areas, that have a bigger talent pool to pick from. They did really well to get where they got and it's a very great outcome."

BATHURST GOLDMINERS UNDER 14s SQUAD: 4 Noah English, 5 Jarvis Whalan, 6 Kelen Traves, 8 Jaxon Burton, 9 Pierson O'Dwyer, 10 Cooper Crosby, 11 Mathias Pemberton (absent), 12 Charlie Fischbeck, 13 Will Pheils. **Coach:** Jade Pheils. **Assistant coach:** Zoe Burton. **Manager:** Karen Whalan



TAKE YOUR PICK: Lucy Goodfellow at Annie's Ice Cream Parlour. Photo: CHRIS SEABROOK 061621teamies

Flavour of the festival

ON Tuesday, July 6, you can savour the flavour of every single ice cream at Annie's in their first ever all-you-can-eat event.

As part of the annual Winter Festival, the ice creamery is hosting an All You Can Eat Winter Festival Scooper Bowl.

For fans of the iconic ice creamery, which is known across the country, it's almost too good to be true.

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Friday 18th June

Thursday 17th June

Team's championships bid

SWIMMING
BY ALEXANDER GRANT

THEY made a great impression at the recent Mountains and Plains Short Course Championships and now the Bathurst Swim Club are ready to show the rest of the state what they're capable of.

Bathurst will be sending a team of 28 swimmers to this weekend's Swimming NSW Short Course Country Championships at the Sydney Olympic Park Aquatic Centre.

The club claimed overall honours at the M&P short course carnival, to mimic their efforts in summer's long course edition, and several swimmers gained qualification times from that event to attend this weekend's next

event in Sydney.

Bathurst Swim Club head coach Josh Stapley said the team size is a big leap up from the group they sent to the Long Course Country Championships earlier this year.

"Having 28 swimmers qualify is massive. That's 10 more than what we had in the summer championships in February. They've got quite a lot more events as well, with 97 individual events and eight relays," he said.

The group were swimming well through the start of the short course season and we had an idea of what the numbers would be like because of the ones that had already qualified through their long course times.

"We still exceeded what



CARNIVAL ARRIVES: Nate Brennan and the Bathurst Swim Club have been working hard in the lead up to the NSW Short Course Country Championships. Photo: CHRIS SEABROOK

swimmers already have the times necessary to schedule as well and maybe progress to the NSW Short

Course Championships and will use the upcoming Country Championships in Sydney as a stepping stone while for others it's an opportunity to gain qualification.

"This is the first big championship we've had for winter and the first chance to race at a last pool like SOPAC. They're freshened up for this event and it will be the best opportunity to grab those state times," Stapley said.

There's a couple looking for that, but there's many look for good results in terms of finalist ribbons and medals as well. We've got quite a lot of swimmers that fared well at country in February and have the potential to be able to add to those results in winter."

They're freshened up for this event and it will be the best opportunity to grab those state times," Stapley said.

There's a couple looking for that, but there's many look for good results in terms of finalist ribbons and medals as well. We've got quite a lot of swimmers that fared well at country in February and have the potential to be able to add to those results in winter."

Central West set for representative test

Skills showcase

AUSTRALIAN RULES
BY ALEXANDER GRANT

THE Central West's top women's players are out to show what the region's stars can do this Saturday when they travel to Nowra to face the Sapphire Coast.

After a year away from representative football the team won't know too much about what to expect from their opponents this Saturday, but they'll be confident of putting in a good performance following Sunday's positive training session.

The squad is dominated by Bathurst Giants players - who take up 12 of the 21 places - and club members Michael Sloan and Liz Kennedy are the Central West team's coach and manager respectively.

Kennedy said the team bonded well over that recent session together and they should do Central West proud in their trip away.

"The squad overall is really quite strong," she said.

"We met on Sunday to have a little training run in Orange, with a bit of a meet and greet. It was lovely to see how well the girls got along.

"We said that we now put away the club jerseys and we put on the Central West jerseys and that we're one team."

Kennedy said the rise in the standard of women's football in the region has been exciting to watch.

"I think that the level has



RARING TO GO: Zoe Peters is one of 12 Bathurst Giants players named in the Central West representative team. Photo: PHIL BLATCH

really started to improve," she said.

"For us at the Giants, we've been able to keep our core group together, and it's the same for the girls at Dubbo. Bushrangers are going through a rebuilding phase but I think the overall skills across all the teams is something that's really impressed me.

"At our girls' training the other night I took note of the fact that a lot of them are now

kicking 50 metres and a few years ago that wasn't such a common thing. I think that's really exciting for women's footy."

Central West will be looking towards the likes of Dubbo Demons' Emily Warner and Giants' Kaitlyn Kennedy to drive the team forward in this weekend's clash.

Casey White, Competition and Development Coordinator for the Central West, said it will be valuable for the

junior representative players in attendance at Nowra to watch the senior side in action.

"The Central West continues to develop elite female talent, and whilst we are proud of our former players that have moved to metro leagues, we have an obligation to provide an opportunity to those who remain in the region to extend themselves against other great players," he said.

"To have the women's match immediately after the youth girls Central West versus Sapphire Coast game provides a chance for our emerging talent to see a pathway to success.

"The Women's fixture is such an important part of the carnival now, and to have it showcased on the main field, at a family friendly time is going to be great promotion for female football."

Game starts 1pm at Nowra

Showground.
CENTRAL WEST: Laycee Covington-Gorst, Sarah Day, Chelsea Gibbs, Elise Gullifer, Olivia Johnston, Kaitlyn Kennedy, Mikaela Kingham, Zoe Peters, Hailee Provost, Aimee Schmidt, Tamara Thompson (Bathurst Giants), Lyndall Bassett, Kaitlyn Read, Elizabeth Gibson, Erin Naden, Jacqui Ryan (Orange Tigers), Amy Bush, Chloe Hinde, Eily Rudd (Bathurst Bushrangers), Korine Coleman, Kaitlyn Waldie, Emily Warner (Dubbo Demons)



BALL SECURITY: St Pat's prop Caleb Gunning makes sure he doesn't drop the football in Friday night's under 15s derby against Bathurst Panthers. Photo: ANYA WHITELAW

Running hard in the wet - Saints just Lovett

RUGBY LEAGUE
BY ANYA WHITELAW

THEY were the the clear favourites for Friday night's Group 10 Junior Rugby League under 15s clash against Bathurst Panthers, but in the second half under extreme pressure St Pat's Blue were in need of some inspiration.

It was inspiration they got from Leyton Lovett, the hard running forward providing a turning point in a contest the Saints went on to win 20-4 at Jack Arrow Oval.

Having lost just once so far this season, the second-placed St Pat's Blue outfit was expected to do it comfortably against a Panthers side sitting seventh on the ladder.

When the Saints forced a line drop out off the back of their first set then Regan Stait charged over, it looked as if the host's evening would unfold as they had planned.

But wet and slippery conditions combined with a determined showing from the Panthers - lock Drae Abell and halfback Declan Hodges leading the way - saw the young lads in black well in the contest.

It took a barnstorming run from Lovett to cross with eight minutes left on the clock for the Saints to really take control. His try made it 16-4.

"He had a great game, it's really good to play alongside him. He really lifts the team," Pat's prop Caleb Gunning said of his teammate.

"We really had to work hard in the middle, their lock was really good and they were pretty aggressive. To win was good, it's always good to win a local derby."

Lovett's effort - he made good yards every time he carried, got through a load of defensive work and was held up over the line in the

dying stages - was crucial in the wet.

The Saints looked most dangerous when their forwards hit the line hard, Gunning admitting Panthers made his side work hard for the win.

"They played good and we had to lift our standard a bit, it was definitely a hard one," he said.

"The conditions were terrible, it was really slippery, but it was a good, hard game. That ranks top three in hard games.

"I thought we had it in the first quarter after we scored from the kick-off and I thought we'd steady the ship from there. We fell off a bit though and had to have a bit of a speaking to, but we managed to turn it around."

ST PAT'S BLUE 20 (Regan Stait, Jacob Lamb, Leyton Lovett, Riley Hancock tries; Mac Hutchings 3 goals) defeated BATHURST PANTHERS 4 (Declan Hodges try)

Friday 25th June

Thursday 1st July

Making the most of nights

WITH lockdowns limiting the audience, the Bathurst Winter Festival's Brew and Bite nights were never going to be able to reach their full potential.

However, the organisers made the best of a tough situation and were rewarded with local support on Friday and Saturday. Council's events manager, Hannah Welch, said it was "magical".

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Monday 5th July



ENTERTAINMENT: Kelso High Cirkus Surreal students Jessica Christian, Luci Steffen and Amy Parker. Photo: CHRIS SEABROOK 070321cwinfest1a

No subs? No dramas



GOOD TIMING: Bathurst Giants' Mikaela Kingham gets this kick away before being tackled in Saturday's game. Photo: PHIL BLATCH

AUSTRALIAN RULES

BY ALEXANDER GRANT

BATHURST Giants coach Liz Kennedy keeps finding new ways to be surprised by her unbeaten team throughout this AFL Central West senior women's season.

In Saturday's derby success against Bathurst Bushrangers the latest impressive moment for Kennedy was witnessing her new players already making a big impact.

Even with no substitutes in their latest clash at George Park 2, and without assistant coach Mick Sloan on deck, it didn't stop the Giants coming away with a 10-9-69 to 4-2-26 victory in challenging conditions.

Bushrangers almost kept pace after the opening quarter, where the girls in orange had a 26-13 lead, but from that point on the gap started to blow out as the Giants found some rhythm.

Elise Gullifer kicked five goals for the

Giants while Hailee Provost booted four.

Kennedy said several players put their hands up with big performances.

"It was the first time that we'd gone into a game with no reserves. My girls were just absolutely outstanding," she said.

"Elise was one of the standouts, with five goals. Her and Hailee are working so well together up front. Laycee Covington's voice was so positive on the weekend and our new girl, Carla Hill, was outstanding too.

"Getting Carla over the last two weeks has added a whole new dimension to the team. It's like she's always played with us."

But it's also with some of the younger members of the team where Kennedy believes positive impacts are being felt the most.

"I must give a shoutout to Rosie Snare, Molly McCrossin and Saige Davies. Saige played in our youth girls team and brought across Molly and Rosie, and they've all just

slotted into our team so well," she said.

"They just get in there, do what they need to do, and you can see that they have a real desire to learn the game. They're really starting to pick it up.

"I was concerned with how we were going to fill the spots left by the players we lost at the end of last year but these girls have just blown me away by how well they've adapted to the game."

Saturday's win takes Giants to eight wins from eight games to start the season.

That's not a number Kennedy envisioned as feasible in pre-season.

"With the people we'd lost last year I thought we might struggle but it's been an amazing season so far," she said.

"There's still plenty of things that we can work on and we're not going to get complacent. Our teamwork was outstanding on Saturday though, and it's great seeing them all getting around each other.

Tuesday 6th July

Goldminers adding to side

BASKETBALL

BY ALEXANDER GRANT

BATHURST Goldminers are looking to bolster their squad ahead of the upcoming Western Women's Regional League competition that will pit the city's senior women's players against sides from Orange, Lithgow and Dubbo.

Goldminers have a core group of senior women's players currently in action but they're looking to expand their bench for the upcoming tournament, which will get underway at the Bathurst Indoor Sports Stadium on July 31.

Team coach Hannah Lepaio is looking forward to seeing how much the Goldminers can improve on their depth come this Tuesday's

trials at the stadium. "We're already playing in a comp down south in Barrangary, the Barrangary Conference, which is a development competition. We have our senior team playing in that one, where we've only had one round," she said.

"We were meant to have a second round of that competition going ahead this Saturday but I don't see that happening now, due to COVID.

"I'm jumped on to play and they needed a coach so I decided to do that. Once this regional competition was confirmed we knew we'd be able to use the base of this team, although we've got a couple of girls from out of town who won't be able to play."

As it stands, much of the Goldminers' current core players are interested in taking part in the upcoming Central West tournament. Lepaio said the team are in great shape but certainly will appreciate having a strong roster from top to bottom. "We have around six to seven from the Barrangary competition who are interested in playing this so that's why we're holding trials for this," she said.

"This will be a great opportunity for some of our under 18s or those who couldn't commit to travelling to Barrangary, because it involved travelling to Wollongong and Shoalhaven, and that took place on a Sunday so it was tough coming back home.

"Now having something in the local area on a Saturday

night it means we can hopefully have more people committed to this competition. "We'll have some of our juniors, like Roxy George, Phoebe Moller, Kendra O'Keefe, who will be playing in the regional league.

Then there's myself, Jess Matthews, Olivia Doble and Kaleah Mack who also have been involved in Barrangary who will be playing as well. Teams will be allowed to have 15 players on their roster and can field 12 of those

players at each of the rounds. "That still leaves seven to eight more spots that people can jump into," Lepaio said. "We'll be up against Orange, Lithgow and Dubbo. We'll get to have one game against each of them before playing finals on the last weekend, with one versus two and three versus four."

The Goldminers trials will get underway this Tuesday from 6pm and will run for 90 minutes.

Bathurst will play their opening two rounds at the Bathurst Indoor Sports Stadium on July 31 and August 7, with each round getting started at 7pm.

Round three, on August 14, will take place Dubbo and the finals will follow two weeks later at Orange.



RARING TO GO: Kaleah Mack, Roxy George and Kendra O'Keefe are among the Bathurst Goldminers who are ready to play in the upcoming Western Women's Regional League.

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NEW CHALLENGE: After winning the Western Youth League in their age division the under 14 Bathurst side will now tackle the Country Cup.

Undefeated Bathurst 14s face Country Cup

SOCCKER

BY ANYA WHITELAW

THEY went undefeated through the Western Youth League, they went unconquered at the Forbes carnival, and now the Bathurst District under 14s will do their best to extend that streak at the Country Cup.

Bathurst's Proctor Park will play host to this year's under 14 boys Country Cup, an event which will see six teams doing battle over two days.

The Roy Thomas coached Bathurst outfit booked their spot thanks to being crowned the Western Youth League

champions in June ahead of Dubbo, Mudgee and Orange. They scored 21 goals across their six games and conceded just four.

"They had a good Western Youth League, we went through undefeated, and a couple of weeks ago we went to Forbes and won their carnival," Thomas said.

"We played South West Slopes, Lachlan, Wagga, Orange CYMS and Mudgee. We had a draw and three wins and then in the final we got up on a penalty shoot-out, so the boys were pretty excited about that.

"They've had a good season so far, but Country Cup

will be a big step up in standard I'm expecting."

The annual Country Cup involves district teams from the Western, Southern and Riverina branches and unlike seasons past, this year won't just see the champions of those areas involved.

Riverina will be represented by Griffith, both Eurobodalla and Southern Tablelands will fly the Southern flag while Bathurst, Lithgow and Dubbo will look to stake Western's claim.

"They've changed the format over the last couple of years, they ask anyone who wants to play in it rather than having champions

against champions," Thomas explained.

"It means they get more games which is good, and they get to play teams they haven't played before, which is nice."

Thomas' side are excited to be playing on their home fields at Proctor Park, training on Thursday night to help prepare.

They'll open their campaign at 10am Friday against Dubbo, later that afternoon at 2pm take on Eurobodalla then have an evening showdown with Southern Tablelands (5.30pm). On Saturday they'll meet Griffith (8.30am) and Lithgow (11.50am).

The top two sides after the round games qualify for the final to be played at 3.15pm on Saturday.

"I've told them to enjoy it because it's their last opportunity this year I'd say to play at this sort of standard," Thomas said.

"This is a great opportunity to play those teams from Southern and Riverina, it will be a good challenge as they always have good teams from down there.

"We're not going out saying we're going to win this, but being Western champions we want to give a good account of ourselves, especially at home."

Thursday 8th July

Friday 9th July



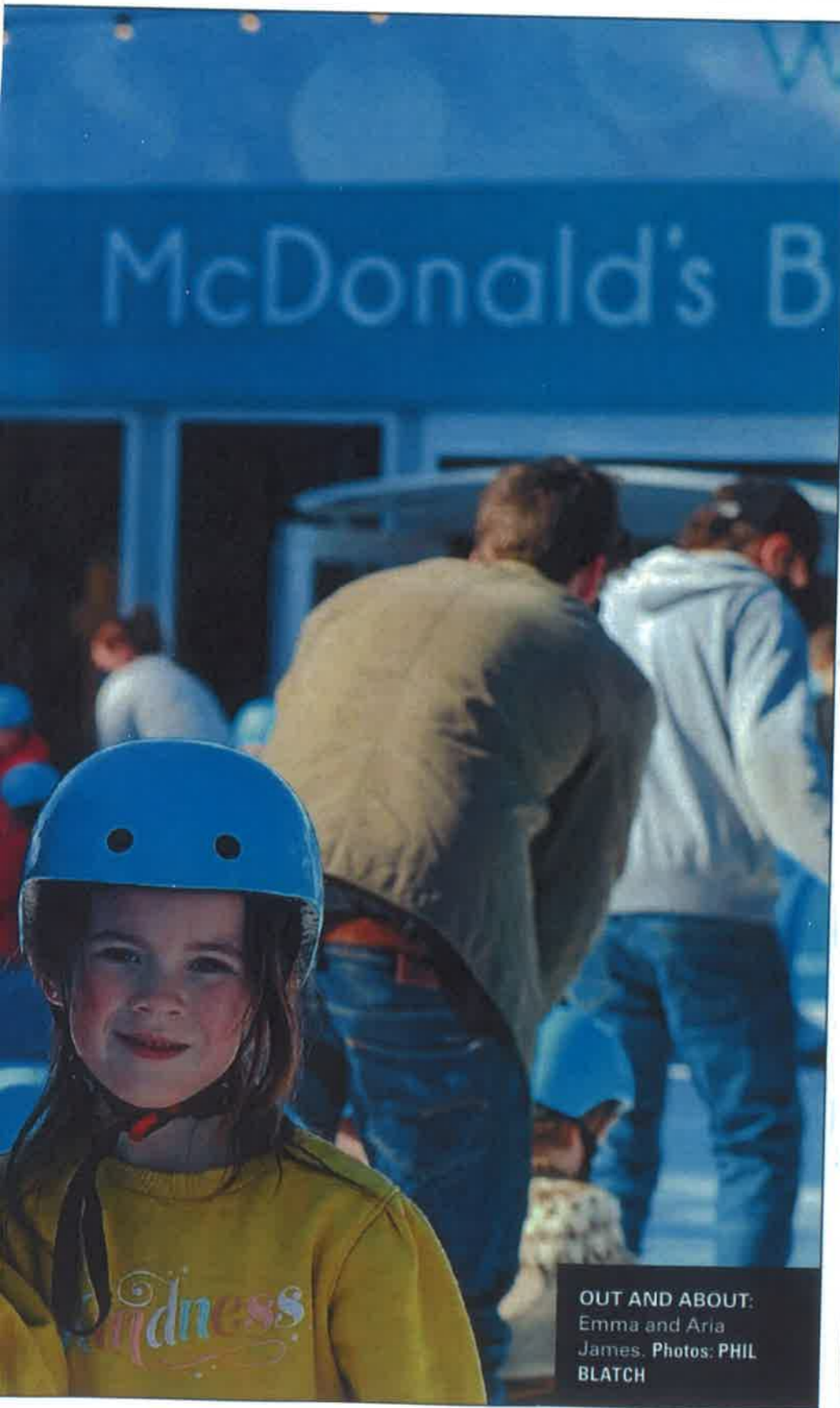
PHOTO OPPORTUNITY: Gloria and Bridget Jiang.



TWO OF US: Lex and Tash Roussel.



PUSH: Will and Monique Bateman.



OUT AND ABOUT:
Emma and Aria
James. Photos: PHIL
BLATCH



KEEPING WARM: Arthur and Roxanne Meek.



HOLD ON: Jessica and Cleo Higgins.



FRIENDS: Amy Gordon, Ella Hulison, Mieke Willis and Taylor Alexander.

Tuesday 12th July

Cup triumph for the Bathurst under 14s

Kings of country

Bathurst 14s are kings of country

SOCCER

BY ANYA WHITELAW

A COOL Hugh Thomas finish with four minutes left on the clock triggered scenes of jubilation from the Bathurst District Football under 14s representative side on Saturday - it was a goal which won them the Country Cup.

Thomas' goal handed Bathurst a 2-1 win in the final against South Tablelands at Proctor Park, the hosts having fought back after being a goal down at half-time.

Captain Zac Johns, who has been representing the Bathurst District Football Association since under 10s, was delighted with the way his team-mates performed.

"It feels very good," he said.

"This was our first year in the Country Cup ... it was a very good achievement. I feel proud to captain the team we've had, I've worked up with some of the boys we had from the start [in under 10s].

"We were a bit worried going into half-time down one goal, but we kept our calm because we knew we could beat them.

"After that goal, we all got around our goal scorer [Thomas], even the goalkeeper came down."

While Johns admitted he "wasn't real happy" to see his goalkeeper leave the box to join the celebrations, he could not help be happy with how season 2021 finished.

Before their Country Cup



Bathurst defeated Southern Tablelands 2-1 in the final of the NSW Football Under 14s Country Cup on Saturday. Photo: BRADLEY JURD

success, they went undefeated in the Western Youth League and kept that unbeaten streak going when winning the Forbes carnival.

"It was a great season we've had. We had a good team this year and it was a great way to represent. I want to say a special thanks to Roy [Thomas] for coaching us," he said.

Just as Johns enjoyed the campaign, so too did coach Thomas.

"It's an amazing feeling I am just very proud to be part of that group," he said.

The under 14s Country Cup involved six teams - Bathurst, Lithgow-Mudgee and Dubbo representing the Western area, Eurobodalla and Southern Tablelands lining up for Southern, while Griffith flew the flag for Riverina.

On Friday Bathurst began with a 3-1 win over Dubbo, beat Eurobodalla 2-0 then

conquered Southern Tablelands 3-0 to be undefeated after the first day of action at Proctor Park.

Thomas' side then beat Griffith 5-0 to ensure they'd be in the final despite falling to Lithgow in their last pool match

In the decider on Saturday afternoon Bathurst came up against Southern Tablelands and found themselves down 1-0 at half-time.

But Thomas knew what his

players were capable of and called on them to focus. The Bathurst 14s responded and momentum shifted.

"I told them at half-time to keep doing what we'd been working on at training and we dominated the second half," Thomas said.

"It was a defining moment of the whole weekend really, they never give up, that's how they play, they keep trying to play.

"We really came after it

after almost five hours of football, to dominate a second half at the end of the tournament was phenomenal actually."

Bathurst came close to scoring a number of times before Noah Soetens managed to lock things up.

The hosts then pushed hard for the match winner and as the clock ticked down it was Hugh Thomas who found it.

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SOCCER

| From page 24

"We created a few chances, so we knew it was coming, it was just a matter of time before we'd get that first goal and I was always confident we'd get the next one. Their keeper was a really decent keeper and kept them in it," Thomas said.

"We scored the winner with four minutes to go. It came from a cross and Hugh took a touch inside the box and picked his spot in the corner.

"We were unlucky not to score a couple more really, we hit the post and their keeper made a really good one-on-one save against one of our forwards.

"All the boys and me want to thank our manager Alana Brown, over the season it's been an awesome bit of organisation ... and I want to thank all the parents for their support too."

While his side was unable to hang onto its lead, Southern Tablelands coach John Edwards was "super proud" of what his they produced in the NSW Football competition.

"What they achieved over the course weekend was unbelievable. The way they represented their town this weekend was outstanding," he said.

"[They] Played some brilliant football and worked their way into the grand final of the NSW Country Cup versus Bathurst.

"Unfortunately we went down 2-1 in a game with every aspect of football included. It was a fast, physical game that was brilliant to watch."

- ANYA WHITELAW

Wednesday 14th July



WINNERS: At least half a dozen players from ORC's 2020-21 second grade premierships side will compete in the BOIDC this coming summer.

Sellers to lead the Tigers in BOIDC

CRICKET
BY JAKE HUMPHREYS

IT'S been three years since ORC fielded a squad in the region's top-flight cricket competition, but the Tigers are set to return to the Bathurst Orange Inter District title race this summer.

After the second grade unit claimed the premierships in 2020-21, the club got together and decided a return to first grade was needed.

Central West Cricket Council chairman Mark Frecklington is happy to welcome any new or returning club to the competition, and is stoked to see the Tigers return.

"We'll always entertain clubs jumping on board if they want to," he said.

"They used to be one of the stronger clubs in the competition."

While the BOIDC schedule hasn't been confirmed yet, Frecklington expect all sides from last year to compete again, with Oberon being the extra.

"There won't be any massive changes but obviously we've got the new team coming in," he said.

The Royal Hotel Cup will again go ahead with 12 teams, but Frecklington says there's plans for two pools as opposed to three.

"Hopefully we can split them into groups of six and give them a few more chances to play each other," he said.

If ORC joins the 20-over competition, that means a side would have to pull out. Frecklington isn't sure who will step aside yet.

"We have to wait for confirmation from clubs but we would think it will be Lithgow or Molong," he said.

Formerly with City Colts, Oberon product Dave Sellers will return to his hometown club and looks to fill-in as captain in the first season.

"We are glad to be back in the comp, he said.

"We are a proud successful club with a long history, and first grade is where we should be.

"We are hoping to be competitive, win a few games, and maybe sneak into the finals."

As for the type of players on the rosters, Sellers has indicated there will be somewhat of a blend.

“

We are a proud successful club with a long history, and first grade is where we should be.

Dave Sellers

"We've got four-five experienced guys who have won comps in Bathurst before," he said.

"There's also some exciting young guys coming through who can be serious cricketers."

It's one thing to have success in Bathurst District Cricket Association second grade, but Sellers acknowledges the difficulties of taking on the top sides from both Bathurst and Orange.

"There's obviously a step-up into first grade but we've got the potential to do well," he said.

"Wayne Sellers is our key player and everyone would agree. When he's switched on, he's one of the most damaging bats in the zone."

Progress on court

BASKETBALL
BY ALEXANDER GRANT



LEARNING CHANCE: Jess McGrath, Hannah Lepaio, Jess Matthews, Kaleah Mack and Roxy George (pictured) are part of the I Am A Girl scholarship program.



EXPERIENCED: Former Canberra Capitals and Australian Opals coach Carrie Graf will be a part of the first panel.
Photo: ROHAN THOMSON

A SELECT group of Bathurst's top basketball players, coaches and administrators have been invited to be a part of the inaugural I Am A Girl (IAAG) Leadership Scholarship Program.

Bathurst's Jess McGrath, Hannah Lepaio, Jess Matthews, Kaleah Mack and Roxy George have all become a part of the program, which aims to encourage and inspire women's participants across the state.

Basketball NSW brought in the initiative to help "develop skills in basketball, teamwork, interpersonal skills, knowledge of the game as a whole".

The Bathurst quintet are among 240 scholarships offered to people 15 years and older in various roles within the game.

The program's first phase will begin on Friday afternoon with an online panel of women's sporting icons, timed to take place alongside the Australian Opals' campaign at the 2020 Tokyo Olympics.

"Myself, Hannah and Jess Matthews are doing the leadership course for coaches while Kaleah and Roxy are doing the one for players. Our first Zoom session for it is this week," she said.

"That will help set us up and get us familiar with what we'll be doing over the next 12 months."

Scholarship recipients will

have eight online education sessions spread out across the following year, designed to help them in their chosen career path.

This Friday's online session involves a brilliant panel of Australian female sporting talent.

The session will involve current head coach of the Kenyan men's team Liz Mills, two-time Olympic medallist Jenni Screen, former Opals captain Michelle Timms, former Opals coach Carrie Graf and former Water Polo world champion Kerry Turner, who will host the panel.

McGrath said it's great to see initiatives giving girls greater confidence in the game of basketball.

"It's fabulous. It's great to see them promoting women coaching girls and encouraging a female-driven atmosphere so that we can get involvement up," she said.

"We've got a regional women's side for Bathurst, who were meant to have their first game this weekend but that's been pushed back, and things like that help to keep the girls involved in the game.

"Promoting an inclusive environment is great because it can sometimes be intimidating when you go away to events and it's mostly men."

Basketball NSW are also set to appoint IAAG Leadership Scholarship Ambassadors next week, going to those who are "shining examples" in the sport.

29th July, Thursday

Friday 16th July

Goldminers prove far too strong for Lazers



ROAD TO STOP: Bathurst Goldminers started their Western Women's Regional League campaign with a big win. **Photo: BATHURST GOLDMINERS**

SKETBALL

ALEXANDER GRANT

THE space of a single game the Bathurst Goldminers have told the rest of the Western Women's Regional League that they'll be a force to be reckoned with, after overcoming the Lithgow Laz-ers 62-37 on Saturday.

Following a delay to the start of the new competition the Goldminers quickly made up for lost time by coming out to an early lead against the home side and holding their advantage throughout the game.

A combination of both youth and experience helped the Goldminers break down the Lazers' attack but it was

their work off the ball where the Bathurst women shone the brightest.

Haylee Lepaio and her sister Hannah, who is also the team's coach, used their experience from their Newberry College years in the United States to guide the Bathurst side around the court.

Hannah Lepaio said it was an exciting occasion to see a senior Bathurst women's side in competitive action again.

"I think it was a great result for our first hit out but it was great just to get everyone out on the court altogether. For a couple of the girls it was their first time playing in four years," she said.

"We were pretty well on

FIRST ROUND

Western Women's Regional League

- Bathurst Goldminers 62 def Lithgow Lazers 37
- Orange Eagles 54 def Dubbo Rams 49

top from the get-go. Haylee came out firing and had four points in the first minute so that was a nice buffer and we just continued to build up the lead from there.

"I think our running game is strong but everything really stems from our defence. We pick up off that and build up a fast-paced running game off that.

"There's not so many of the

classic centre players around at the moment so when Haylee and myself are on the court, as well as Lewellyn Kingham at the five for us, it gives us that extra bit of height and body."

The 'Miners' man-on-man defence proved not trouble for the fit squad and it suffocated the Lazers in possession.

"We'll be sticking to that for the most part. We've got great defenders all-round. We were able to apply a bit of a press as well, which contributed to that score," Lepaio said.

"I'd have to say Haylee led the way for us and she ended up being the highest scorer for us, which may have come

as a bit of a shock to her.

"I thought that Liv Dobel was also great. She's always solid on offence but her defence is above what you could ever ask for."

In the other game of the opening round it was a much closer affair between the Orange Eagles and Dubbo Rams.

Eagles came away 54-49 victors on the Dubbo court.

The competition enters its next exciting for the Goldminers this Saturday when they play their first home game against Orange.

Opening tip off for that game at the Bathurst Indoor Sports Stadium will be 7pm. **BATHURST GOLDMINERS 62 defeated LITHGOW LAZERS 37**

Tuesday 10th August

PEOPLE & PLACES

westernadvocate.com.au/multimedia



CATCH-UP: Allen Spencer, Rob Danelon and Pete Waru. 073121csoc2



SPORTING CHANCE: Meredith Jones, Erin Naden and Tanesha Pringle. 080121csoc4



GREAT OUTDOORS: Robyn Bruce with Ash and Jodie Gominan. 073121csoc8

ALL SORTS OF SPORTS

BATHURST has been turning on some great winter weather for sporting action and photographer Chris Seabrook has been on hand at the rugby league, rugby union, netball and soccer to capture the action on and off the field.



GOOD SPORTS: Paris Campion and Brydie Comiskey. 073121csoc5



OUT AND ABOUT: Cali Jackson and Mia Zanze. Photos: CHRIS SEABROOK 073121csoc1



FUN AND GAMES: Emma Lewis and Heidi Luther. 073121csoc9



TWO OF US: Karah and Mick Armstrong. 080121csoc3



IN THE SUN: Jennifer Hansen and Alicia Pepper. 073121csoc10

Thursday 12th August



TERRIFIC TRIO: Ethan Potts, Logan Coombes and Charlie Fischbeck were damaging for the under 13 Panthers. Photos: ANYA WHITELAW

Terrific trio, brilliant defence aids Panthers

UNDER 13S

ANYA WHITELAW

FLYING five-eighth, a slick fullback, a barnstorming prop and a huge effort in defence - they were all keys to the under 13 Bathurst Panthers kept their Group 10 Junior Rugby League season alive on Saturday.

The Panthers beat Orange CYMS 32-16 in their elimination semi-final at Tony Luchetti Sportsground with a display of football that had each Chris Coombes bursting with pride.

Front rower Ethan Potts made huge yards up the middle of the ruck, custo-

dian Charlie Fischbeck was damaging in broken play and five-eighth Logan Coombes finished with a hat-trick of tries.

Their efforts in attack were impressive, but for coach Logan Coombes the real heroics came in the way his side defended.

"Their defence was just unbelievable, just how much they've improved defence wise from the start of the year, that's what won that game," he said.

"I've got no doubt we can score points, we've got kids who can score points, I'm never worried about that. It's more defence and today they

were unbelievable.

"Just getting off the line, getting up in their face the whole game and it was every one of them, even the bench players who came on.

"I just couldn't be more proud of them, it was just unbelievable when you consider where they've come from, we finished last the last couple of years."

Panthers made a flying start to the eliminator with Logan Coombes breaking clear down the left wing and running all the way to the try line.

But from the kick-off Panthers knocked on, CYMS lock Jackson Rodwell scored off

the resulting set and Callum Miskell's conversion gave the Orange side a 6-4 lead.

It remained close until the five minutes before half-time - that's when Panthers blew the game open with three tries in quick succession.

Coombes crossed twice in that period, the first coming off the back of consecutive penalties, the second following a brilliant run from Potts.

When Fischbeck made a 57-metre run to the line off the next set, Panthers had skipped out to a 20-6 lead.

Having made huge metres every carry despite the attention of multiple defenders, when Potts got his name

on the try scorers' list three minutes into the second half it drew loud cheers from his team-mates.

CYMS gave themselves some hope when Harry Dempsey dived over in the left corner to bring it back to 26-10, but the green and golds then knocked off from the kick-off and moments later Fischbeck had his second.

In the final quarter Fischbeck continued to impress - he jolted the ball loose in a crunching tackle and pulled off a one-on-one strip.

But to CYMS' credit they fought until the final minute when halfback Riley Board scored a consolation.

Pat's 14s fight hard but run out of steam

UNDER 14S

BY ANYA WHITELAW

THEY kept themselves in the fight for three quarters, but in the end the under 14 Saints ran out of gas to lose their Group 10 Junior Rugby League elimination semi-final 40-18 to Bloomfield on Saturday.

The match at Tony Luchetti Sportsground saw six lead changes as both sides fought for survival and there was only six points in it with a quarter to play.

Bloomfield led at that point as they'd scored five tries to the Saints' three, but the perfect conversion record of Pat's Cameron Sargent kept things tight.

However, after that Bloomfield dominated possession. The Saints tried hard to hold them, but spending long periods in defence drained them. They cracked.

"It just comes down to communication which wasn't there all the way through, we were up there until half-time but then from our side our defence just let us down," Jeff Hudson, who runs the Saints with Tim Hefernan, said.

"The first half we went try for try, but we just made it too hard on ourselves in the second half.

"We just let go of it there towards the end and it made it too hard to come back. They had 80 percent of the ball in the second half and we just got tired."

Before Bloomfield ran away with it in the final quarter it was a quality battle.

The Saints made up for an early error - letting the kick-off bounce dead in goal - with a strong defensive set and it the fifth minute Sargent found space on the left edge and ran away to score.

Bloomfield scored the next two tries to take the lead, but on the first set of the second quarter the Saints snatched it back after Brett Aynsley-Hah reached out and planted the ball between the sticks.

Momentum continued to swing as Bloomfield lock Jayden Innes - who was arguably best on ground - scored then Tyler Murphy responded for Pat's to make it 18-16.

But they were the last points for the Saints.

Tuesday 17th August

Tuesday 17th August



PHYSICAL CHALLENGE: St Pat's winger Mitch Kirby - who took plenty of carries on Saturday - is halted by Bloomfield's defence.
Photo: ANYA WHITELAW

Saints 16s can't hold on in physical match

UNDER 16S

BY ANYA WHITELAW

A TALENT-PACKED Bloomfield outfit took the honours in Saturday's Group 10 Junior Rugby League under 16s qualifying semi-final, but they certainly knew they'd been in a contest against St Pat's.

The Saints led by two at half-time before Bloomfield finished stronger to take the win 26-12 at Tony Luchetti Sportsground, but the physicality of the contest never wavered.

Players on both sides ran hard and tackled harder - evidenced by two Pat's players finishing the game with shoulder injuries and another with a sternum complaint.

Pat's coach Matt Dunn admitted his side, under fatigue and pressure in the second half, were guilty of making handling errors which hurt. But he was still proud of the effort.

"I stressed to the boys during the week that it was all about ball control against this side and when we got stuck with the ball down our end, we pushed a few passes," he said.

"We made some uncharacteristic errors in defence too, we're the best defensive side in the comp, we'd only conceded up until today 12 points in the last four games. We held them to nil last time and we knew they'd come out and be red hot.

"At three-quarter-time we were close, but then we just dropped off a few tackles and they're a good side - they've got six or seven Rams players and a Country player.

"They're a good side, they've won the comp the last three years and put us to the sword. But I couldn't be prouder of the effort of the boys."

The Saints showed that defensive strength Dunn spoke of in the opening minutes as

they had to withstand back-to-back sets on their own line.

They then produced a good set when they got the ball and a lucky bounce off the kick - plus a good chase - saw five-eighth Blake Hahn score.

Their lead zipped out to 12-0 shortly after from another piece of luck and determined chase - this time a grubber kick took a deflection off a Bloomfield player close to the line and hooker Lachlan Fitzsimmons ran through to ground the ball for a try.

Though Pat's did not manage another point after that - Bloomfield five-eighth Jaiden Powyer marshalling his side well as they scored 26 unanswered points - the Saints' effort did not falter.

Centre Jacob Kelleher made some top covering tackles and right across the field Saints took tough carries.

Broes hopes his 17s will get Giant finale

AUSTRALIAN RULES

WHEN Brad Broes talks about the achievements of his undefeated under 17 Bathurst Giants side this season his pride is obvious, but there is still one more box the coach would like to see them tick.

Broes would love to see all his Giants with an AFL Central West premiership medal around their necks.

With nine wins from as many outings, the Giants have already qualified for the under 17s grand final given it is a top-three finals system.

But whether or not that grand final goes ahead remains to be seen.

The uncertainty exists due to the current lockdown of regional New South Wales, one which has been extended from an initial seven-period until August 28.

At this stage the plan is to start junior finals on August 29 - the Orange Tigers and Bathurst Bushrangers would play the preliminary final with league officials suggesting the Giants have a scratch match/intra club game on that day to aid their preparation.

The grand final would follow the next available week.

"As grim as it looks I'm doing my best to look on the positive side ... it makes it tough, but I keep saying to the boys to hang in there, hang in there, it could settle down," Broes said.

"I'd love to see them get a grand final and it's not just the winning thing, it's also being able to send my boys out on a high. I counted and there's 10 top age players who won't be there at the end of this year.

"It would also be great for my assistant coach Peter Hunt, he's been absolutely wonderful. He's another footy brain."



CROSSING FINGERS: The Bathurst Giants under 17s are undefeated minor premiers and now hoping they can contest a grand final. Photo: CONTRIBUTED

Whether or not the Giants will get a grand final remains to be seen, but no matter what the decision on the status of that fixture is, Broes is delighted with what his side has achieved in 2021.

Though the Giants went into the season as the under 17 defending premiers, they had lost nine members of the successful 2020 outfit and one had five new additions.

"Proud is an understatement, after the guys we lost from last year I thought it might be a bit less easy than it was last year, but credit to the boys, they've stepped up and wiped everyone off the park all year, it's been absolutely amazing," Broes said.

"I didn't think we'd do anywhere near as well as we did ... it was only when Pete and myself sat down and worked out where everyone was going to be playing that we said 'this is still actually a really strong team'.

"The first four or five games we played we kept thinking 'this could be the one, this will be tough' but it turned it out it wasn't that tough. Orange is the side that's come closest to beating us and that was a 25-point margin."

In the Giants' undefeated run to the minor premier-

ship they never conceded more than five goals in a match, while on six occasions their tally of majors hit double figures.

The success has come off consistently strong performances from the entire squad - the returning players have lifted, the newcomers have picked up the sport quickly and the pair who graduated from under 14s have been consistently strong.

"We had guys that probably played minor roles last year like Hayden Traves, Jenson Brown and Kobe Hunt and they've all stepped up and played big roles," Broes said.

"The guy that impressed me so much last year and continued to do it this year was Hayden Goodsell, he's clearly been the best ruck in the comp the last two years and this year he just showed why he's so good.

"We've had guys like Cooper Brien, Cooper Traves, those guys have stepped up to fill holes and the two boys I gained out of the 14s in Will Sloan and Angus Warne were just exemplary, the amount of best and fairest the two of those guys got as bottom age 17s was extraordinary."

- ANYA WHITELAW

Tuesday 17th August



UNDERGROUND: Bridget Annand has a placement with the WestConnex project in Sydney. Photo: CONTRIBUTED

Students are happy to work from ground up

EDUCATION

AN ENGINEERING cadet from Charles Sturt University Bathurst has been working on a mammoth Sydney tunnel just 18 months into her degree.

Second-year student engineers from the campus have recently embarked on their first placements and are getting a close look at their chosen career.

Bridget Annand, who was born and raised in a district regional farming family and a Kelso High graduate, has long had an interest in helping her community become more resilient while improving the condition of

the environment.

"By combining this passion with my scientific, mathematic and design skills, I was steered toward civil engineering," she said.

She has been working in Sydney with John Holland/CPB Contractors on the WestConnex, Rozelle Interchange project.

As an undergraduate engineer, she has been exploring the new tunnels being built below Sydney while gaining experience with geotechnical engineering, site-based work, and large-scale projects.

"I am passionate about sustainability, equity and

diversity, and I hope to improve the local community by focusing on these aspects during my work as an engineer," she said.

Bathurst High graduate Marcus Dege, meanwhile, has a career in engineering in his blood.

His father was an aircraft engineer and car mechanic and, growing up on a farm, Mr Dege was exposed to earthworks and water management.

But it was not until his first career choice in high school as a RAAF pilot fell through that he seriously considered engineering.

"Engineering became my

first preference due to my longstanding interest in the discipline, and the interesting direction the new Charles Sturt University course was going since it was so different to other universities' typical structures," he said.

During his first and second semesters, he worked on a water purification system and a proposed National Logistics Hub in Parkes respectively.

Most recently, he has been on placement for four weeks at Bathurst Regional Council, surveying and drafting and working on-site and in the office to help produce local projects.

He said his biggest motivation is to make a difference in society's sustainability.

"Growing up on a farm and having a strong respect for nature, along with understanding the danger human pollution presents to our own lives, I am passionate about helping move our communities towards a more harmonious relationship with the environment," he said.

CSU Bathurst's engineering course began in 2016 and set out from the beginning to treat its students differently.

Applications are now open to study engineering at CSU in 2022.

Honeymans earn Western tennis honour

TENNIS

Orange, Parkes, Forbes

and Cowra.

While all three Kelso High students have had more baseline rallies and forehand winners over the years than they'd care to count, this is the first time that the trio have been picked in Western outfits at the same time.

"They've been playing tennis for quite a few years, they all started when they were around seven or eight-years-old," Jason Honeyman, father of the talented trio, said.

"They do play a fair bit and we have a fair bit to do with the Eglinton Tennis Club and

Lithgow, Dubbo, Mudgee,



SUPER SIBLINGS: Maddison Honeyman and her brothers Sebastian and Bailey were all selected in Western CHS tennis teams. Photo: CONTRIBUTED

have done for a lot of years, so they have worked hard to get to where they are.

"Bailey made it into the team in 2019, last year's was cancelled because of COVID,

I don't think they got the trials in. This year both Bailey and Sebastian tried out and both got into the team and Maddi, she didn't get to try out last year, but this year she tried out and got into the team.

"So for Maddi when she goes to play, she will be playing against 17 and 18-year-olds, it will be good for her game."

Western selected both boys and girls teams, each numbering eight players plus a reserve.

At this stage the girls titles are slated to start October 26

and the boys' event is scheduled for November 16-18.

They have already been rescheduled once due to the COVID-19 lockdown and Jason Honeyman is hoping his children will get their chance to play for Western.

"The kids are all hoping it goes ahead, especially the boys because it's their last year to represent their school," he said.

"But the boys, I don't think they'll be lucky enough to play now they've pushed the whole HSC back to the 9th of November."

- ANYA WHITELAW

Monday 23rd August

Wednesday 1st September

Eglington report card time

TENNIS TALK

IN 2021 the tennis at the biggest little club in the west has had its thrills and spills, dummy spits and most of all champagne tennis from all the players.

Every year we have a look at all the players' form and give them a percentage rating out of hundred on where they stand in 2021.

Lets have a look at the players in alphabetical order:

SLUGGER JOHN BULLOCK - A very experienced campaigner who has won more grand finals than any other player in this competition. Slugger's trump card has been his main weapon and comes in at an 80 per cent rating.

HARRY DANG - Consistent as they come who has played with plenty of purpose, a 70 per cent rating.

GARTH HINDMARCH - A very skilful net player with brilliant courtcraft skills, an 85 per cent rating.

BAILEY HONEYMAN - Comes out of Rod Schumacher's Eglington Tennis Academy. A very promising young gun who is on the improve, a 68 per cent rating.

JASON HONEYMAN - Has been playing some good quality tennis with his big serve doing the damage, a rating of 75 per cent.

ANDREW HOWARTH - Has had an up and down season, but on his day can upset the tall poppy players, a rating of 55 per cent.

BARRY LINDSAY - The slice king has had a fruitful season and has worried the big gun players, a 78 per cent rating.

ROBERT MACK - Has had a promising season who was peaking just at the right time for the finals. A big serve with a cannonball forehand, a 70 per cent rating.

STACEY MARKWICK - a very steady player who has had a good season, a 62 per cent rating.

DANIEL McLEAY - A very much improved player who has never been underestimated in his matches, a 62 per cent rating.

JASON MOKENTIN - One of the best doubles players in this competition with brilliant net skills, a 95 per cent rating.

BRYAN REIRI - Has been a real force in this competition with his powerful ground strokes very impressive, an 89 per cent rating.

IRON LADY ALLYSON SCHUMACHER - Has played her best tennis this competition, has nerves of steel, gives 110 per cent on the court and has a fortune-favours-the-brave attitude, a 90 per cent rating.

ROCKET ROD SCHUMACHER - A player who if you were in the trenches, you would want him right beside you, a dominating all round game, a 91 per cent rating.

JUDY SMITH - A good steady player who can mix

it with the best, a 76 per cent rating.

YOKO TORO - Has had a good season with plenty of wins, a 60 per cent rating.

ANDREW TREE - The most improved player this season who has worried the big gun players, a 65 per cent rating.

KEVIN TREE - On his day can be an exciting player to watch, a 60 per cent rating.

MATT TREE - Has been a real danger player this season with his powerhouse hitting, a 94 per cent rating.

RUSS WELSH - The road runner with speed to burn, a 61 per cent rating.

KATH WILKINSON - A player who gives her all on the court, a 60 per cent rating.

Well folks, it's Slugger signing off.

Keep safe and well in lockdown, and as the famous Vera Lynns song says, "We'll meet again don't know where don't know when."

- JOHN BULLOCK

Back-to-back quest is not to be for Mooney



CLOSE: Lilli Mooney was on track to contest for a second straight Netball NSW Under 23s Premier League title. Photo: CONTRIBUTED

NETBALL

BY ALEXANDER GRANT

IT WAS all lining up for Bathurst's Lilli Mooney.

Her defending champion UTS Randwick Sparks were marching towards another finals series in the Under 23s Netball NSW Premier League competition before the COVID-19 lockdown in Sydney postponed those plans.

Then in early August organisers were forced to completely abandon the remainder of the competition when there were no signs of COVID numbers decreasing in the Greater Sydney region.

The decision is a blow for the talented player who travelled frequently for practice

and committed plenty of hours to furthering her skills at the top level.

But Mooney is remaining upbeat.

The goal attack was the youngest member of last year's premiership side, at just 16 years old, and continued to further her game with a great season.

"The competition got cancelled a few weeks ago and the games had already been cut short around 10 weeks. That wasn't really much of a surprise to us," she said.

"We were having such a good year. We were second on the ladder and about to play the team on the top but unfortunately that got cut short, but that's okay."

The Sparks had dropped two games in a row - the only time they had done that this season - just prior to the lockdown coming into effect, and they were feeling ready to reset and make a run at competition leaders North Shore United.

They had games to come against the struggling Central Coast Heart and Capital Spirit when things came to a halt.

North Shore were on 22 points at the time of the Under 23s competition being postponed, with the Sparks directly behind them on 20 points.

IMB South Coast Blue were close by on 18 points and keeping the battle for

the top two spots very interesting.

Mooney and the Sparks had managed to take down United 41-33 earlier in the season before the North Shore women got their revenge in a 53-42 result.

Finishing the season would of course have been an exciting thing for Mooney and her team, but in the eyes of the Bathurst netballer every hour of match time and training from 2021 was incredibly beneficial.

"It was going so well. I had a lot of changes in my life but I still got to go to netball and I still got to play," she said.

"It was a massive workload but it all paid off so much. Even the training was really

beneficial. Even if I didn't play, all that training is would be so grateful for."

Mooney was able to test herself across different positions in the attacking third of the court and she relished the challenge.

"Our goal shooter got injured so I got to play there a bit. I don't think the pressure bothered me that much. I feel like I'm used to it now," she said.

"I haven't trained to play in goal shooter for a few years now so playing with the other goal attack threw me off for a second but we were able to quickly work it out and we actually did really well. We ended up winning that game by quite a lot."

Thursday 2nd September

Friday 2nd Sept to 1st

Accolades for teacher

EDUCATION

LSO High School's Stacey Jones has been acknowledged as one of the best educators in the state, after receiving a Minister's Award for Excellence in Teaching.

Ms Jones, is one of just 26 teachers across NSW to receive the honour this year.

In what is an outstanding result for public education in Bathurst, among the other recipients are two teachers from Bathurst High; Veronica Snook and Matthew Bailly, who will feature in a later edition.

Principal of Kelso High, Mick Sloan, said the award recognises Ms Jones' knowledge, professionalism and leadership across the entire school community.

He said her high expectations drive best practice within and beyond the school gates, ensuring that the positive impact her work has on student outcomes leads far beyond her classroom walls.

Mr Sloan said when it comes to teaching it was difficult to isolate her best attributes, as "she has so many" but said if he had to pick one it would be the relationships she has with her students.

"That's where it all starts. She also has an incredible array of strategies, she continually learns and continually challenges herself to

improve, she wants the best for the kids," he said.

As an HSIE teacher, Ms Jones teaches a range of subjects including legal studies, business commerce and geography.

"Her speciality is legal studies but being such a good teacher I actually think she could teach anything," Mr Sloan said.

Ms Jones said she was pumped when she heard about the award.

"I think it's great for public education and great for the town."

She said she felt incredibly grateful to be recognised.

"I think it's such a good thing for Denison College to have teachers being acknowledged state-wide because we do have really strong educators in the region."

Ms Jones began teaching in 2013, having previously worked as a NSW police officer. She was drawn to teaching after developing an appreciation for the impact a positive education can have on adolescents, and the positive impact it has on the future trajectory of their lives.

"I wanted to be part of that," she said.

When asked what she loves most about teaching her answer is simple.

"The kids. I love spending time with them; they are amazing, cool, complex and challenging."



OUTSTANDING: Stacey Jones, who this week was announced as one of 26 teachers in NSW to receive the Minister's Award for Excellence in Teaching.

Thursday 9th September

Reg

Wait

COVID-19

BY ALEXANDER GRANT

THE confirmation of a COVID-19 lockdown extension on Thursday morning for the Central West has thrown further doubt on whether regional and local winter sporting competitions will ever be able to wrap up their seasons.

As expected, the lockdown extension was announced during this NSW state government's daily press conference as daily cases continue to be seen in Bathurst and Orange.

NSW deputy premier John Barilaro confirmed that community sport will no longer be going ahead in the state until an 80 per cent double vaccination rate is reached.

Barilaro stated it might not be until early to mid November that such a figure is seen.

That means Group 10 Rugby League, along with Bathurst's local football and netball competitions, will be hard pressed to see any game time take place for the rest of the year.

That 80 per cent target also likely means that Bathurst Orange Inter District Cricket will have the start of their competition affected.

Barilaro, during Thursday afternoon's follow-up online regional press conference, said it's not feasible to bring community sport back before the double vaccination target is reached.

"We'd have ticketed events



NOT LOOKING

in what we'd restricted an environment. I sports you're nunteers. You f and a range of you have no ab he said.

"You can't p tors on the si

Friday 10th September



CARE PACKAGES FOR STUDENTS: Kelso High Campus senior mentor Jude Murphy and principal Michael Sloan. Photo: SAM BOLT

Schools rejoice as HSC set for November start

EDUCATION
BY SAM BOLT

YEAR 12 student across Bathurst are sure to be breathing a sigh of relief, as the state government confirmed on Friday the Higher School Certificate [HSC] will go ahead in person this year. HSC examinations will go ahead on November 9 and last until December 3, with strict COVID-safe protocols to be in place to ensure the safety of students, staff and exam supervisors. All exam supervisors will need to be fully vaccinated by November 9, and eligible

HSC students have been strongly encouraged to be 'double dosed' before commencing exams. Denison College Kelso High Campus principal Michael Sloan said the confirmation has given students certainty to prepare accordingly. "It's good to have the certainty, and it gives the students dates to work towards," Mr Sloan said. "One of the hardest things about lockdown and learning from home are all the questions posed: dates for the trials, student wellbeing etc.: but now we have dates,

and whatever the regulations are, we'll make it work." With the current Year 12 cohort having not only faced a disrupted HSC year, but a disrupted Year 11 too, Mr Sloan has congratulated students for the resilience and tenacity they have shown over the last 18 months. "We've received a host of 'stress less' care packages as a kind gesture from Moodie's Pharmacy, which we intend to deliver to students in the coming weeks," he said. "Our Year 12 students have been working consistently hard through circumstances beyond their control, and

they will certainly be stronger citizens from it as they enter life after school." Mr Sloan's sentiments have been echoed by Denison College Bathurst High Campus principal Ken Barwick, who said their Year 12 cohort are "raring to return to school and finish it off." "The HSC is the culmination of 13 years of schooling, and our students are likely to benefit from an extended period of face-to-face learning before commencing exams," Mr Barwick said. "I couldn't be more proud of this particular cohort who've never once com-

plained about the disruptions, they've taken it in their stride and have always maintained a positive attitude throughout." In the event cases of COVID-19 continue to be an issue in Bathurst, Denison College has sorted Charles Sturt University and select local primary schools as alternative venues for HSC exams. Both principals have said their Year 12 cohorts are eagerly awaiting more information regarding their end-of-year graduation balls. "We expect that information to arrive early next term," Mr Barwick said.

Passionate Panthers just love league tag

UNDER 13S TAG

THEY came within one point of the minor premiership, but if you ask Bathurst Panthers under 13s league tag coach Rachel Hodges the most satisfying thing about season 2021 it wasn't the results. It was the passion her side brought each Sunday when they lined up for games in the Group 10 Junior Rugby League competition.

Though the extended COVID-19 lockdown of many areas in the Central West meant the competition was abandoned late last

week and Hodges did not get to see just how far her side could go, she was still proud of what they had achieved. Only Orange CYMS Green, who finished one point ahead of them in the minor premiership, managed to beat Panthers during the regular season.

Though Panthers then fell to St Pat's Blue in the first week of finals, Hodges was confident they would have bounced back had the season continued. They were drawn to play Mudgee - a side they beat 22-16 earlier in the year.



TERRIFIC TAG: The Bathurst Panthers under 13s league tag side loved going about their work this season. Photo: RACHEL HODGES

against CYMS and then they lost the first semi against Pat's, but they had that second chance and they were excited for it too. "They just loved it, they fed off it, it was really good to watch them play. That was the best thing about it, that they just loved it."

Seeing her squad come together into a cohesive unit took some work for Hodges given the numbers and mix of experience. But come together they did. They headed into the finals series on the back of five consecutive wins.

"It was tough to start with because we had so many numbers, we had a really big side, so it was about trying to get all the personalities to click," Hodges said. "A few of them were new, but there were girls that played 13s last year still in this side and then some 11s who had come up, so there was a mix."

"But they are a great bunch of girls, I was so proud of them. I was never really hard on them, I let them set the pace and they just did it, they did it because they loved it."

- ANYA WHITELAW

"They definitely had a good chance at it, when they were on they were on," they only lost once

Wednesday 15th September

Tuesday 14th September

Unreal finish for under 13s

UNDER 13S

BY ANYA WHITELAW

they got to play in a semi-final, the way they finished was unbelievable really," he said. "Most of the kids have been together for a fair few years and they haven't had a lot of success, so to do what they did this year was pretty good I reckon."

"We started out in our first two games and we got beat comprehensively really. I wasn't really worried because I knew they had a lot of improvement to come, but to make the five and then beat a quality side like CYMS like we did was pretty unreal."

"I've played rugby league all my life and it's probably the most enjoyable day I've had I reckon, seeing them win down in Lithgow. CYMS are very good side and until this year they hadn't beat-

en them."
The victory against CYMS proved to the young Panthers that they could match it with teams who bettered them in the past and Coombes felt they could have extended their run had the finals series continued.

"They just haven't had the confidence because they've been so used to getting beat, so I think that's why we were so excited with what they did. I knew they had it in them, it was the perfect timing to bring it out," he said.

"I definitely think they would've won their next game, if everything didn't go down we would've played Lithgow in Blayney and while it's hard to say what would've happened and Lithgow are a very good side, I think they

"I thought we saw the grand final that day, with no disrespect to Panthers, I thought we would be seeing Bloomfield in the grand final. To me they were the side to beat and I felt we were good enough to go through and meet them in that grand final."

As Dunn pointed to, Pat's

who came off the bench - he

"So we didn't all play the same teams the same amount of times."

While Dunn praised the effort of all his players - both those who started and those

"The thing with the draw, it probably wasn't actually reflective of the season, we played Bloomfield three times and we only played Lithgow once, we only played Mudgee once and they finished below us."

"So we had a period there or about four or five games where we struggled purely in the back end of games because of injuries. But once we got those boys back, we had a good back-end of the season."

"We started off the season really well, but then we had a run of injuries where we had about six kids out and we had to borrow a lot of under 15s. There were weeks when we played away we only had 13 and 14 kids because the under 15s didn't align with our draw," Dunn said.

It was part of a strong run towards the business end of the season, the Saints also drawing 8-all with minor premiers Bathurst Panthers.

had beaten Bloomfield 10-0 a fortnight before that qualifying semi-final.

"After the game we spoke about it and we knew what we had to do to beat that side. Even though Panthers finished first, Bloomfield have been the standout side for the last few years and the ones we considered to be the benchmark in the competition."

"The boys were disappointed after losing that semi, but they knew they were capable of beating Bloomfield because we'd beaten them only a couple of weeks earlier," Dunn said.

They did not get the chance to do so as the season was abandoned before the second week of finals, but Dunn is adamant in his belief it would have been his Saints facing the Tigers in the decider.

Dunn's Saints had qualified for the finals in third position and while going down to Bloomfield in the first week of semis, the coach had every faith his Saints would have met them again.

A GRAND final against Bloomfield - that how St Pat's under 16s coach Mat Dunn thinks the Group 10 Junior Rugby League season would have finished had COVID-19 not forced an early end.

BIG SEASON: St Pat's prop Justin Hodgson works to make ground against fierce rivals Bloomfield Tigers. Photo: ANYA WHITELAW



Dunn expected his side to battle Tigers

UNDER 16S

the same group of young Panthers and build on 2021.

"I think it's the best thing I've ever done, it was great," he said. "I was very lucky, John Fearnley helped out, I'm married to his sister, and Brad, he's my nephew, when he couldn't play 21s this year for Penrith, he came and helped me out."

"Brad helped out for four or five weeks and the kids just loved him, I learned a lot off him too, he's a very good young footballer"

"I think they'll really improve over the next couple of years, like they're not going to win a comp over night but I think if they just keep turning up to training, there's some damn good little footballers amongst them, they'll be up there."

involved with junior teams in the past, this was his first season as a coach. He hopes it won't be his last either.

After having John and Brad Fearnley assist him this year, Coombes learned plenty and is eager to continue on with

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TOP STUFF: The under 13 Bathurst Panthers upset Orange CYMS in the first week of finals. Photo: RACHEL HODGES



BIG SEASON: The Bathurst Giants, with Katie Kennedy as captain, enjoyed another brilliant year of AFL Central West action. Photo: PHIL BLATCH

Growth in team continues

AUSTRALIAN RULES

FROM back page

"Katie had to have two seasons off and then under difficult circumstances had some time with the Bushrangers, but just wasn't enjoying her footy," Kennedy said.

"She wanted to lead a group of girls and play the game how she wanted to play it. She wanted other girls to be successful in AFL so after a few conversations they got a team together."

"I don't think Katie or myself could have expected us to have achieved the amount of success that we've seen so quickly. I think Katie's

leadership helped to enhance AFL.

"The girls also have a great relationship with the other teams and I think that's pretty special."

Kennedy beat a strong field of coaches to the top prize in 2021.

Her husband Mark was nominated for his efforts with the senior men's team, who also finished atop their ladder.

Parke's Panthers' Mitchell Stubberfield earned an honorable mention as well for guiding his side through a strong men's tier two season. Anthony Fisher was also

acknowledged for his coaching of the Bathurst Bushrangers Outlaws tier two team.

There's still plenty of prizes left to be decided this week, with the next batch of AFL Central West awards will be given out on Wednesday.

At 6:30pm that day the junior best and fairest votes will be decided and on the following day, also starting from 6:30pm, the senior best and fairest winners will be declared.

Then on Friday the AFL Central West's inaugural hall of fame inductions will take place.

- ALEXANDER GRANT

- ANYA WHITELAW

Friday 17th September

Saturday 18th September

Wednesday 22nd September

Alternate 'facts' hit the mail in Kelso

A LETTERBOX drop spreading 'alternate' information regarding COVID-19 across Kelso has been criticised for needlessly attempting to confuse the narrative around getting on top of the pandemic.

Various houses across the Kelso area were hit by pamphlets on Monday in an apparent deliberate attempt to convince members of the community they're not hearing the full story around COVID-19.

Kelso resident Hans Stroeve, who's residence was one of a number hit by 'alternate facts', said he was infuriated to find the pamphlet in his letterbox.

"Pamphlets like this are full of dodgy websites that can't be trusted; they're either amateurish or peer-to-peer sites with quite fixed agendas," Mr Stroeve said.

"They cherry-pick some data but ignore the mountain of contrary evidence to confirm their own bias."

For example, the pamphlet references the Depart-



JUNK MAIL: Kelso resident Hans Stroeve has called out an unsolicited letterbox drop spreading alternate COVID-19 'facts'. Photo: SAM BOLT

ment of Health's Therapeutic Goods Association [TGA] to state COVID-19 vaccines have caused 355 deaths and 36,387 adverse effects as of July 8.

What it doesn't say, however, is the TGA's statement that "the most common adverse effects reported

following immunisation are predictable and have been observed with many vaccines," and that "adverse events reported are often not caused by the vaccine itself."

While a self-confessed critic of certain government policies, Mr Stroeve feels

the spread of alternative information undermines the trusted knowledge and expertise of health professionals.

"What infuriates me most is they don't even have enough courage of their convictions to include their contact details," Mr Stro-

eve said.

"I've been in education long enough to know I can't just do a bit of online searching- I won't call that research- and understand all the complexities of COVID or vaccination."

"But if I was hospitalised for knee surgery, I'd be

trusting the advice of health experts and put myself in their hands.

"That's not being a 'sheep', rather recognition that I don't have the required expertise, and I won't Google how to operate on a knee and then try to tell them their business."

AUSTRALIAN RULES

BY ALEXANDER GRANT

ONE of Bathurst's most promising junior talents in Aussie rules, Jade Leven, has capped off a brilliant 2021 season by being named the AFL Central West youth girls season's best and fairest player.

The Bathurst Bushrangers star shared the award with Dubbo Junior AFL Club's Molly Mayall.

Leven was a driving force behind the Bushrangers' unbeaten season and her club-level achievements were recognised midway through the year when she was named captain of the Central West's representative youth girls side.

"I was hoping that I could get it but I was surprised to win," Leven said of her award. "I have a good year with achievements in footy. First up, I got selected in the WRAS [Western Region Academy of Sport] squad and then I was in the GWS Giants development squad. I was also named captain for the Central West AFL team.

"I was nominated for a WRAS award and now I've won this best and fairest award.



WHAT A YEAR: Jade Leven, pictured in action at the Academy Games, was named a joint winner of the AFL Central West's youth girls best and fairest awards on Wednesday night. Photo: IMAGEN PHOTOGRAPHY

BEST & FAIREST TALLIES

- UNDER 12S: Callum Munns (14), Cameron Healey (11), Sam Turner (10)
- UNDER 14S: Harvey Shephard (20), Harrison Knight (16), Cooper Smith (11)
- YOUTH GIRLS: Jade Leven (12), Molly Mayall (12), Callee Black (10)
- UNDER 17S: Cooper Brien (21), James Gibson (11), William Sloan (10)

"I would love to be able to take my game further, maybe even to the professional level. We'll see how things go."

At the time of the season's cancellation due to COVID-19 Leven's Bushrangers were already through to the grand final and were awaiting the winner of the Bathurst Giants and Orange Tigers preliminary final.

"It was an amazing season. The girls played really well," Leven said.

"It was a bit upsetting that we didn't get to play in the grand final like we were hoping to. We really did have a great season."

Leven's Bushrangers youth girls coach Ciara Kearns said it's hard to find many

other people in the competition who put as much time into skill development.

"It was so good to see a few of the girls' names popping up there but Jade's pushed through all season. She's been there over the past four seasons and with every year has gotten stronger and stronger," she said.

"It's great to see her rewarded for her efforts throughout the year. She has a lot of commitment, and is working so hard on her technique with the Giants and WRAS, and she shows a lot of drive to get better and better."

Kearns pointed to one moment in particular during the 2021 season where Leven's flexibility was on full display.

"She always brings a lot of fight and passion. There was one game where she was sitting at full forward because she was injured and really wanted to get into the game," she said.

"We were having a rough spot where we couldn't get possession so we brought her into the midfield and she made four tackles in about the space of a minute at 100 per cent effort the whole time. The team went on to dominate the rest of that game."

PFC to launch all-ability soccer program

It's for everyone

SOCCER

BY BRADLEY JURD

PANORAMA Football Club is calling for expressions of interest for participants in Bathurst's first all-ability soccer program, Bathurst Summer Football for All.

Designed to be an inclusive, accessible-friendly football format for people with disability, the league will provide inclusive playing opportunities in a safe and secure environment.

Program co-sponsor Adam Lawson of local Yindymarra Care approached Panorama with the idea, citing the success of our Bathurst Summer of Football summer soccer competition as his inspiration for an inclusive version.

The program will likely span six weeks starting in November and have different age groups; further details being driven by the needs and interests of potential participants who submit expression of interests.

Panorama sponsor and public relations Benjamin Fry said the organisers are hoping to make the competition free for all participants.

"Panorama FC aims to build on Mr Lawson's idea to help this community enhance social interaction, develop social skills and build relationships," he said.

"The club would also like to give each player a participation pack on signing up, including soccer-related gear and apparel to help them



NEW PROGRAM: Front: Vivability's Nick Packham, Adam Lawson and Ben Fry. Back: Beau Yates, Blake Lawson. Photo: CHRIS SEABROOK

succeed during the program - at zero cost to each player.

"To make this a reality, we are also seeking expressions of interest from local businesses who would like to explore sponsorship opportunities."

Lawson said the idea of an inclusive sport program

was always in the back of his mind.

"It's always been in the back of my mind, to have something people with a disability can play," he said.

"I had someone who was one of my clients that couldn't play. He'd come watch me play soccer. So I

kind of wanted to do something like this for him because I wanted him to be able to play soccer.

"It's important to have a program like this because it's inclusive. Everyone has the right to be part of a team and play sport, whether they have a disability or not. We

want them to be a part of a team environment and have fun."

The program is likely to run on Monday afternoons, with the November start dependent on COVID-19 restrictions easing as expected.

At this stage, organisers are planning to run two age

groups at the first trial ages 10-18 and 18-30.

Private carers, National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS), support providers and local businesses can express their interest by going to the Panorama FC website at www.panoramafc.com/football4all.

27th September

Thursley 7th October

Inaugural hall of fame class announced

Sloan honoured

AUSTRALIAN RULES

BY ALEXANDER GRANT

PREMIERSHIP-WINNING player and coach, valued board member and passionate promoter of junior and women's footy.

Decades of brilliant achievements led to Mick Sloan being named as one of five inaugural inductees into the AFL Central West hall of fame on Friday night.

Sloan, Tony Lewis (Bathurst Bushrangers and Eagles), Geoff Day (Cowra Blues), David Redden (Orange Tigers) and Graeme Clements (Cowra Blues) were all honoured in the online announcement for their contributions to AFL in the region.

Current Bathurst Giants senior women's assistant coach Sloan has been through a number of roles since he first donned a Bathurst Eagles jersey in 1993, after moving to the city from Canberra.

He was a part of the Eagles' five-premiership streak in the 90s, spent several years on the AFL Central West board and proved an integral part of the Bathurst Giants' formative seasons in the 2010s.

It's another great moment of recognition for Sloan who was one of the AFL's Outstanding Service To Australian Football award winners in 2019.

Sloan said it was a great honour to be part of the first



HONOUR: Mick Sloan was one of five inaugural inductees into the AFL Central West hall of fame on Friday night. **Photo: AFL CENTRAL WEST**

AFL Central West hall of fame class.

"I'm very grateful for the nomination. It means a lot to me. For me, what I've done over the past 29 seasons, is for fun. It's great to be acknowledged but you certainly don't do these things setting out to achieve awards," he said.

"I particularly appreciate the induction when you look at the other people who were inducted in this first

group. I know all of them and they've all been involved in the league for a long period of time. They were all doing a lot of work when I first arrived and have continued to do a lot of work in the league.

"I feel very humbled to be in that kind of company."

When Sloan first moved to the region from Canberra he never envisioned Bathurst becoming his home, but a big part of the reason he stayed was his great relation-

ship with Eagles teammates.

He would go on to earn life membership and best and fairest honours with the club.

"I moved to Blayney for a job when I finished uni and was only going there for 12 months really. Twenty-nine seasons later Bathurst is my home and I think that's because of the connection I made with the guys at the Eagles," he said.

"There was a great culture at the club. Some of my close-

st friends are still from that period of time. Winning five premierships in a row is a remarkable achievement for a team, and even though the league only had four teams at the time it was a strong competition.

"I feel like the Giants now have a lot of similarities to the Eagles in terms of the culture at the club. It's a positive environment, with lots of camaraderie, where people are respected."

If there's one concept that Sloan has always been at the forefront of it has been junior development.

When the Eagles merged with CSU to become the Bushrangers, Sloan became a junior coach and Auskick co-ordinator.

In his time on the AFL Central West committee and as president Sloan always sought to further opportunities for juniors.

| To page 15

Monday 27th September

It's

SOCCER

BY BRADLEY JURD

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"The club would also like to give each player a participation pack on sign-up including soccer-related apparel to help



ON THE BALL: Jamie Brown in action during last season's Eglinton DFC summer competition. Photo: EGLINTON DFC FACEBOOK PAGE

EDFC league to heat up over the summer

SOCCER

SOCCER players who had their 2021 winter season cut short due to the COVID-19 pandemic will be ramping at the bit to play again when Eglinton DFC's summer competition starts next month.

All sport was cancelled back in August due to the COVID-19 lockdown in regional NSW, bringing a temporary end to local Bathurst district Football competitions.

The competitions never resumed, which saw the pending teams in each grade awarded the minor premier-ship.

But with vaccination rates on the rise, community sport will be able to commence later this month, meaning Eglinton DFC has been able to organise its Friday afternoon summer competition at Police Paddock once again.

This year, the club will be expanding to cater for junior age groups, which will nine-a-side, while the normal mixed senior competition will be the usual seven-a-side.

The junior competition will have two age groups - 8-10 years and 11-13 years.

Children and parents are encouraged to the use the age that they turned in 2021,

but Eglinton DFC is happy to work with players on this if they have a friend or sibling they were hoping to play with or were aged seven this year.

Games will be played on under 10s sized fields, with no offside. All other soccer rules apply, except that there are no slide tackles allowed.

Other details include 15 minute halves, 8-10s will kick-off at 4.40pm and 11-13s at 5.15pm.

There'll be no referees, with each team to provide a game leader with an approved Working With Children Check.

There'll be no finals, but

games will continue to run until the senior draw is completed and the competition will run for around 8-10 weeks depending on the senior draw.

Teams will need to wear the same or similar coloured shirts but senior teams often source sponsorship to offset the team fee, so juniors are welcome to do so as well.

The junior competition is limited in size due to field spaces so players are encouraged to get their teams in as soon as they can.

For players who are struggling to find a team, they can contact Eglinton DFC, who in turn can find a team for

them to play in.

A senior team costs \$660, while a junior team is \$300, with money to cover insurance for Football NSW and ground fees.

The Eglinton DFC competition is one of two summer competitions that will run, with Panorama FC running a senior men's and a senior mixed competition on Wednesday afternoons at Police Paddock.

Panorama FC is also hoping to run an all-ability competition on Monday afternoons at Morse Park.

For more information or to submit a team, email eglintondfc@gmail.com.

Players reach academy's first phase

On to next level

AUSTRALIAN RULES
BY ALEXANDER GRANT



THE announcement of the latest Greater Western Sydney Giants Academy first phase selections has showcased the abundance of AFL talent across Bathurst.

Seven players from the Bathurst Giants and Bushrangers have made the first phase

Tuesday 12th October

Wednesday 13th October

to heat summer

competition. Photo: EGLINTON DFC FACEBOOK PAGE



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Players reach academy's first phase

On to next level

AUSTRALIAN RULES
BY ALEXANDER GRANT

THE announcement of the latest Greater Western Sydney Giants Academy first phase selections has showcased the abundance of AFL talent across Bathurst.

Seven players from the Bathurst Giants and Bushrang-thurst Giants and Bushrang-thursters have made the first phase teams in the Western Sydney division of the academy, representing the continued growth of the junior competition in AFL Central West.

Bathurst Giants' Tamsyn Davies, Paige Lowe (under 17s), Jemmia Luck (u16s) and Will Sloan (u14s) along with Bushrang-thursters' Elly Rudd (u19s), Dakota Nugent (u18s) and Jade Leven (u16s) were selected in the first phase.

Sloan's father Michael, who is currently the assistant coach to the Giants senior women's side, said his son and the Bathurst players have been receiving great support on their path to the academy.

"He's been in the development squad for a couple of years and has been working with Kieran Brown, the local coach of the academy squad, who has nurtured a lot of these juniors and has done an amazing job in lifting the standard of our players," he said.

"Will was doing a couple of sessions in Sydney in a group of around 45 kids, and that's now been trimmed to 18."

The academy have split



SELECTED: (from left) Paige Lowe, Tasmyn Davies, Will Sloan, Jade Leven, Jemmia Luck, Elly Rudd and Dakota Nugent. Photo: CHRIS SEABROOK

their first phase squads across Riverina, Canberra, Broken Hill and Western Sydney - the latter of which Central West players have been selected in.

Those regions will be condensed into one squad at the start of the new year during the last phase of roster trimming.

In the lead up to that point the Bathurst Giants and Bushrang-thursters selected will still have the opportunity to learn a lot with the academy.

"It's great for them to work with really high level coaches. There's a rigid fitness program that goes with it, plus other personal development resources," Sloan said.

"You could consider it like an apprenticeship. You have from 16s, 17s, 18s and 19s. Then from 18s and 19s they move into the AFL system."

"It's a chance to develop skills and really build into

that elite fitness level and a much higher standard of play."

Sloan said the academy has already shown what it can do for promising Bathurst talent.

"Take a look at Scott Brown, from Bathurst, who has been in the system for a long time. He's had lots of really high level opportunities," he said.

"There's no question that the standard of our juniors

is improving and that's only going to benefit the league in the future."

The high number of girls selected for the program also showcases how strongly the women's side of the game has developed at junior level over the past decade.

"It's a testament to all the people who have been working with those girls. There was Steve and Belinda Mann initially, who did a lot of work with the youth girls to set that

up, as well as Jayama Kay who has worked with kids at a local and WRAS level," Sloan said.

"The girls have also been through the development program with Kieran and Katie Kennedy has done a lot of work as well with coaching the local side."

"A lot of these girls are high performing athletes in a range of sports so it's great to see them coming in and trying out AFL."

Stadium doors go open for players

INDOOR SPORTS

BATHURST Indoor Sports Stadium has thrown its doors open for three days a week as part of the first stage of the path towards competitions resuming for the summer season.

While competitions and group training will be able to start again from the week of November 1 there are still chances right now for those in Bathurst to keep themselves fit and ensure their skills stay sharp.

The stadium is open Monday to Wednesday from 11am to 5pm for those wishing to shoot around and use the courts.

Stadium manager Andrew James has been busy piecing together draws for the multisport, netball, indoor soccer and basketball competitions this summer.

As the COVID-19 NSW vaccine double dose numbers started to get closer to the important 70 and 80 per cent marks he was able to set the restart date that everyone had been waiting to hear.

"Once they started to announce percentages we knew we'd be looking towards the back end of November to restart our competitions. For the last three to four weeks we've been planning to open back up around now," he said.

"Originally we thought the 80 per cent mark was around the 25th but that looks like it could be brought forward



OPEN: Bathurst Indoor Sports Stadium manager Andrew James with players enjoying the chance to use the courts on Wednesday afternoon. Photo: CHRIS SEABROOK

a week, but we'll plan for comps to start back up at the first week of November to give us an extra buffer and give teams time to nominate.

"We're open at the moment, just for three days a week as we look to generate some turnover, but then after that we'll be getting our competitions underway.

"Until we get to the 80 per cent double dose number we can't do any competitive training or scrimmages."

The COVID-19 lockdown was a big blow to the Bathurst Indoor Sports Stadium, who according to James had seen strong numbers across all their competitions before they were forced into an early conclusion.

Nominations were first opened up to those winter competitors before new teams could throw their hat into the ring.

James said the numbers have been great.

"The seniors are often slow to get nominations going ... but they're steady. The multisport and netball nominations have been good but our junior basketball has been booming," he said.

"We've got more teams in that competition than I've ever seen since I've been here. Having a few Scots All Saints and Stannies teams has helped with that. I've had to shut nominations for our primary school comps because they're already full."

With such strong support, and a need to close nominations so early, James hopes that it will lead to greater playing opportunities in the future.

"If we can sustain these numbers over the next 12 months we can make a case with Bathurst Regional Council for an extension, because we're unable to fit in any more people through the week," he said.

"We're so busy now. Once everything ramps back there's no room for anyone to come to the courts and just shoot around from Monday through to Friday after school.

"It's great for us but unfortunately it leads to people

missing out. There's room for the stadium to grow but we would have to keep these numbers up."

Following the latest round of lockdowns James said it's nice to have quelled the fear of low nominations.

"My biggest fear was that we'd have people thinking 'Nah, we won't do it, we keep getting disrupted' but the feeling I'm getting is that it's gone the other way. People really want to get out there and they want to get stuck in again," he said.

"We had momentum throughout this whole year and we had a huge winter. We were doing really well with numbers up until closure."

- ALEXANDER GRANT

Thursday 14th October



WELCOME BACK: Denison College Kelso High Campus staff members Karah Logan, Narelle Beasley and Mick Sloan are looking forward to students returning. Photo: PHIL BLATCH

Students returning to their learning

| From page 1

Protocols have been implemented to limit the contact Year 12 students have with the rest of the school leading up to HSC and a variety of back-up plans are in place in case a student tests positive to COVID.

Mr Barwick said returning to classes would be beneficial for students' wellbeing.

"We're really excited that students will be back in classes and engaging in not only learning but socialising with students because I think the lockdown has impacted on a lot of kids in a negative way," he said.

Meanwhile, primary schools are also preparing to welcome back their first students on Monday and Holy Family Primary School principal Kevin Arrow said although some changes would be implemented, the main goal was to continue their core business of teaching and learning.

Masks won't be mandatory for younger children but they will be encouraged to wear one. Hygiene protocols have been heightened and no community-type events including assemblies will be held until rules ease further.

RETURNING

School's in for Bathurst students after months of home classes

EDUCATION

BY AMY REES

MORE than two months of lockdown learning are coming to an end for Bathurst students with schools across the region returning to face-to-face learning on Monday. Students in kindergarten,

Year 1 and the crucial Year 12 will be the first to return to the classroom today (Monday, October 18) with all other years to return on October 25.

The day could not have come soon enough for teachers and students right across the Bathurst region after

months of remote learning with schools open only to the children of essential workers.

Denison College Kelso High Campus principal Mick Sloan was among those looking forward to seeing students back at school.

Mr Sloan said the school had implemented some

changes to limit the number of students in contact with each other, but the biggest change would be the wearing of masks.

But even with school looking a little different for students for the foreseeable future, staff will be doing their best to make the tran-

sition back to learning a smooth one.

"We're really looking forward to seeing all our students back," Mr Sloan said.

Bathurst High Campus principal Ken Barwick is also looking forward to students returning.

He said the school's pri-

mary focus was on Year 12 students as they prepare for their delayed Higher School Certificate exams, scheduled to start on November 9.

"We're already running HSC masterclasses and HSC study bubbles for Year 12 to re-engage them," he said.

| To page 2

Monday 18th October



GAME ON: A majority of the Bathurst-based players and coaches that will feature in the WRAS basketball team in 2021-22. Photo: BRADLEY JURD

Chance to improve for Pheils in WRAS squad

BASKETBALL

BY BRADLEY JURD

SHE only coached for the first time this year, but Jade Pheils is looking forward to her new role as an apprentice coach in the Western Region Academy of Sport's 2021-22 basketball team.

Pheils is one of a number of Bathurst representatives in the basketball team, which includes more than 60 athletes from a range of towns across the Central West including Bathurst, Lithgow, Orange, Dubbo and Gilgandra.

Pheils said her new opportunity will be a great chance

for her to improve her skills as a coach.

"I think it's a great opportunity. I coached for the first time this year, with the Goldminers this year and I'm heading into another season with Goldminers next year," she said.

"It's a great opportunity to improve my skills and get more exposure as a coach.

"I'm really looking forward to working with the other assistant coaches and obviously the head coach, which is Adam Marjoram.

"Jess McGrath, who's also Bathurst based, is one of the assistant coaches, so that's great for her. I think

she's done it for the past two years."

Pheils said it's great to see so many Bathurst basketballers in the squad, which she said is a sign of the success the Bathurst Goldminers program enjoyed in 2021.

"It really shows that off the back of our successful Goldminers season that some of our kids are stepping up and continuing with their opportunities through the WRAS program," she said.

"We've also got a lot of new faces in the WRAS program as well, so that's really exciting to see across the board in both boys and girls.

"I think our program is get-

ting our kids prepared and giving them the opportunity to play at the higher grade."

In both the males and females there are three squads - a graduate squad, a senior squad and a development squad.

The graduate squad features under 16s-18s, the senior squad is made up of under 14s-15s and the development squad is for under 12s-13s.

There are also training partners, which features players from the under 16s age group that are not quite at the level of an academy team.

Bathurst is represented

in the male squads by Max Campbell, Max Johns, Chiranjeev-Singh Kalsi, Kurt Lansom, Will Burton, Charlie Fischbeck, Riley George, Jaxon Burton, Pierson Odwyer, Will Pheils, Kalan Traves and Jarvis Whalan.

Bathurst is represented in the female squads by Roxy George, Phoebe Moller, Ruby Griffin and Sian Campbell.

Pheils will be one of three apprentice coaches alongside Chrystal O'Brien and Molly Croft.

Other assistant coaches not previously mentioned includes the likes of Scott Holmes, Claire Bynon and Kieran Osborn.

Wallal

GOIN

TRIATHLON BY BRADLEY JURD

AFTER coming up short in recent times, Bathurst Wallabies Triathlon Club is hoping to make the 2021-22 season the one it finally crowns itself Central West champions.

The draw for the Central West Triathlon League was announced on Friday, with four events staged at each of the major clubs in the region - Bathurst, Dubbo, Mudgee and Orange.

Mudgee will open the season on November 21, before the Bathurst one on Australia Day, followed by Orange on February 13 before Dubbo finishes the season on March 13.

After coming up short for several seasons now, club president Mick Stapley is hoping the Wallabies can take top spot in the interclub series.

"It's certainly been the focus for us for a couple of years now. Orange have been a frontmarker in that Central West interclub competition," he said.

"For the last few years we've been up amongst it, we just haven't taken that next step.

"Our focus is getting numbers to those interclub events and trying to take that top step on the podium."

With lockdown preventing many athletes from having a normal training schedule for a number of months, Stapley said the return of regular tri-



READY: Bathurst W

athlons from next year help prepare club get back to their full "There's been a of focus around because we haven't events for people t he said.

"For those who targeted events, th

Tuesday 19th October

Tuesday 19th

Wallabies want to win triathlon league

GOING FOR TOP

TRIATHLON

BY BRADLEY JURD

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READY: Bathurst Wallabies Triathlon Club president Mick Stapley with his son Josh, Nick North and other club members. Photo: CHRIS SEABROOK

athlons from next month will help prepare club members get back to their full fitness.

"There's been a real lack of focus around training because we haven't had any events for people to target," he said.

"For those who have had targeted events, they have

had them moved or changed. A lot of people have really struggled with that focused event, so it's really good to have a local event."

Wallabies is still talking to Bathurst Regional Council and local police with their local triathlon events, however, it has produced a tentative

list of triathlons including one on November 14, December 5 (a women's only event), December 19, February 20, March 20, alongside the annual Australia Day interclub event on January 26.

Membership numbers are also looking good according to Stapley and he's expecting

numbers to continue growing, especially around the start of the season.

"We're looking good in terms of membership," he said.

"Obviously there'll be a lot of people that join up when we get down to racing. Obviously there's quite a few that

are a bit hesitant not knowing what's going.

"We're hopeful we'll have good numbers again this year."

For more information on the Bathurst Wallabies Triathlon Club, visit its Facebook page @BathurstWallabiesTriathlonClub.

Photo: BRADLEY JURD

for quad

the male squads by Max Campbell, Max Johns, Chinjeev-Singh Kalsi, Kurt Anson, Will Burton, Charlie Schbeck, Riley George, Jason Burton, Pierson Odwyer, Will Pheils, Kalan Traves and Travis Whalan.

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Phiels will be one of three apprentice coaches alongside Chrystal O'Brien and Holly Croft.

Other assistant coaches not previously mentioned includes the likes of Scott Holmes, Claire Bynon and

Tuesday 19th October

Juniors crucial for Tigers

ORC to make use of younger faces in Bonnor Cup

CRICKET

BY BRADLEY JURO

ORC skipper Dave Sellers knows how talented the crop of juniors he has at his disposal and he believes their impact will play a crucial part in the Tigers' run during the Bonnor Cup.

ORC is one of the most successful Bathurst clubs in the Bonnor Cup, having won two titles back in 1995 and 1999, back when the competition was played under a 40-over format.

But on Sunday, match like ORC's return to the Bathurst Orange Inter District Cricket on Saturday, it'll be a baptism of fire when the Tigers take on Cavaliers.

Cavaliers are basically the kings of the limited overs competition, last winning in 2020 and having won the Bonnor Cup a record 17 times since the cup's formation in the early 1990s.

ORC skipper Dave Sellers is confident his players can impress throughout the competition and he'll be looking towards the younger faces to place a big role.

"We've going to have a fairly similar side to the one on the Saturday," he said.

"We struggled in the competition the last time we were in it because we had a fair few older blokes and we didn't really focus on the little parts of the game like running between the wickets



GAME ON: ORC's Justin Stephenson, Tait Borgstahl and Jacob Ryan will be hoping for a Bonnor chance.

a look at some of the second grade guys and see what they can do," Sellers said.

"Obviously Wayne was going to be our best, but he's going to be away this weekend. He played [Central West] Wranglers two seasons ago and I think he top scored when they played on the SCG.

"He's definitely our best Twenty20 player, it's just a shame he won't be there."

While some Bathurst clubs have organised marquee players, ORC is yet to name any.

Sellers said discussions are happening with a couple of players but wouldn't mention who until any deal is sorted.

While he believes the marquee won't be sorted for Sunday's game, he's hopeful that they might be secured by the time of ORC's second Bonnor Cup match against Rugby Union on November 21.

ORC last played in the Bonnor Cup during the 2017-18 season and it wasn't a particularly enjoyable campaign, as the Tigers finished eighth from nine teams.

ORC will be in action the day before against St Pat's Old Boys in BOIDC, as the Tigers make their long awaited return to first grade.

Sunday's Bonnor Cup match is expected to get underway at 10am from Orange's Wade Park.

innon for Sunday's match at Wade Park.

The absence of the skipper's brother is a big one, having been labelled as the Tigers' key strike man.

"It'll be a chance to have

and fielding and stuff. Hopefully with the younger guys we can improve a lot."

ORC will be without the likes of veteran talents Wayne Sellers and Tim McK-



COUNTING DOWN: Kelso High Campus' Class of 2021 assembled in a giant '21' inside the school's gymnasium. Photo: SAM BOLT

Year 12s finish school

EDUCATION BY SAM BOLT

IT SHOULD be easy to forgive Year 12 students across Bathurst for expressing exuberant glee at the conclusion of their schooling given the testing two years they've faced as a senior cohort.

The exuberance was definitely noticeable among Kelso High Campus' graduating Year 12 class on Friday, as they donned wacky costumes and took part in a series of

activities as part of a week-long victory lap to bookend 13 years of schooling.

Kelso High Year 12 student Elly Rudd said there were plenty of mixed emotions among the cohort as they celebrated their last day, with the Higher School Certificate [HSC], to commence on November 9, their final hurdle to leap over.

"It's been a really crazy year that seems to have gone on forever," Elly said.

"To reach the end is both

relieving and sad, but we're all really happy to have been able to emerge from lockdown and celebrate the end together as a year group."

Fellow student Brody Cooper said the lockdown certainly provided its fair share of challenges from a motivational perspective.

"It certainly was a trying year, but I'm glad we all got through it," Brody said.

"I'm pretty keen to get stuck into a TAFE course next year and hopefully land

a full-time job."

Aiden Clancey said there was a complete outpouring of relief among the cohort throughout the week after having to navigate two COVID-wrought years of senior study.

"Considering we've had it harder than any other Year 12 cohort, the fact we've made it to the end are are still able to sit the HSC is something we should all be grateful for," Aiden said.

Year 12 advisor Lauren

Dean said the resilience and commitment shown by the students has helped them weather a difficult storm in their senior years.

"They've copped the brunt of the pandemic, having to go through two lockdowns during their senior schooling," Ms Dean said.

"They have shown exemplary resilience, and it's nice to see they were able to have their celebration week to cap off their time at school; they really deserved it."

Friday 29th October

Saturday 30th October



CHEERS: Cosmo brewers Alex Robinson and Ian Carmen at the markets.



FAMILY FUN: Kylie, Claire and Sabrina Bissell at the markets last Saturday.



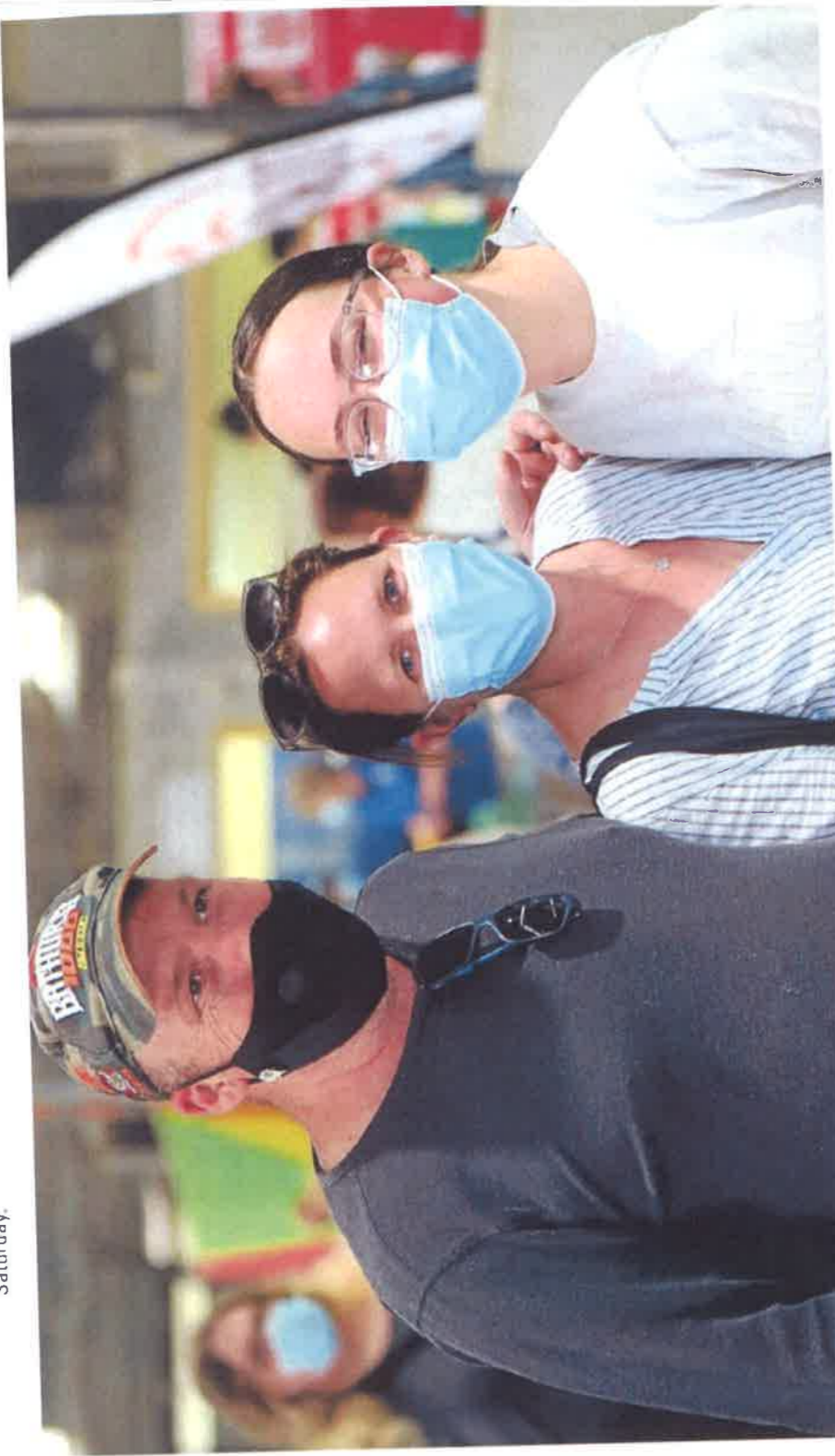
SLEEPING BABY: Somia and Lachlan with Rochelle Benjamin at the markets.

MARKETS RETURN

It was a terrific return for the Bathurst Lions Farmers' Market last Saturday with a number of store-holders selling out. The event was the first farmers' market held since Bathurst emerged from lockdown.



TWO'S COMPANY: Chris Brooks and Sarah Driver grab a coffee.



WE WERE THERE: Steve, Gloria and Molly Gildea at the Bathurst Farmers' Market. Photos: PHIL BLATCH



Kelso High Campus

We wish Year 12 all the very best for their HSC examinations and their future endeavours. We are very proud of our students' resilience, achievements and their participation in opportunities provided by Denison College.

Saturday 30th October

Saturday 30th October

Peters praised for big 2021

AUSTRALIAN RULES
BY ANYA WHITELAW

WHEN Katie Kennedy received her third Bathurst Giants women's best and fairest award on Friday night there was a feeling of pride, but that feeling stemmed just as much from seeing how a young gun polled as it did from her own achievement.

After skipping the Giants to their second undefeated campaign in the AFL Central West competition, Kennedy topped the vote count for her side with 34. She was closely followed by Zoe Peters on 30.

Kennedy even admitted she had her fingers crossed that Peters would finish on top - that's how impressed she was by her team-mate in 2021.

the forward line, but she also loves being that sneaky little pocket to get all those snaps from the sideline she likes to do.

"But you put her anywhere and she will have the best game, she's amazing."

The Giants determined their best and fairest winners based on votes taken after each game with umpires, opposition coaches and spectators invited to vote.

As well as Kennedy and Peters consistently impressing those who voted, Aimee Schmidt, Laycee Covington-Gorst and Carla Hill were acknowledged for solid seasons as they rounded out the top five.

In the first grade men's vote count, it was little surprise to see Mitch Taylor finishing on top with Sam Sloan as runner-up.

Taylor had earlier been declared the AFLCW best and fairest while Sloan was the league's leading goal scorer in the top grade.

Just as she was impressed



TOP GONGS: Bathurst Giants' senior best and fairest winners, from left, Mitch Taylor (first), Katie Kennedy (women's) and Ben Cant (reserves).

in the league. He's got the potential, he's such a good kid and he's amazing to watch on the field. He marks it with ease, kicks the ball 50 metres," she said.

"It has been such a great season from him, to win league best and fairest and club best and fairest, he's just ticking all the boxes."

This season for the first time the Giants fielded a team in the men's tier two competition and it was Ben Cant who was named best and fairest ahead of Jordan Collins.

"If Benny wanted to quit all the other silly sports he's playing and played footy full-time, he'd be up there with the Mitch Taylors and Nic Broes' and Bailey Briens I reckon," Kennedy said.

Bathurst juniors to play in full colours



LOOKING SHARP: The Bathurst under 12s, 14s and 16s will wear full colours for representative games this season.

CRICKET

BY ANYA WHITELAW

IT WON'T just be slick batting and sharp catches the Bathurst District Junior Cricket Association representative teams will bring to their campaigns this season - they'll be looking slick and sharp as well.

First the first time ever, Bathurst's junior representative sides will be wearing full colours.

BDJCA president Steve Cain said the idea behind the new uniforms was to both create a feeling of cohesion across all representative sides - the senior Bathurst team will wear full colours as well - and create some excitement ahead of the 2021-22 season.

"They see it on television all the time, people playing in full colours, and I thought 'Why not, let's try it?' It's just a fun idea, they'll feel better playing in colours, it will be good to see," Cain said.

"The seniors are exactly the same, the style, the shirts, everything. That's great because the kids look up to those guys.

"The 12s look up to the 14s, the 14s look up to the 16s and the 16s look up to the

opens. So it's just a fantastic thing to have a kid that's 11 or 12-years-old wearing the same kit as the opens, it's a great feeling for them. I think the opens guys are pretty chuffed about it as well."

The representative season starts this Sunday for the Bathurst under 12, under 14 and under 16 teams.

Cain said it was no easy task for selectors to finalise those teams given the strong turnout to the representative trials last month.

While some players were unlucky to miss out, those that will wear the green and gold bring plenty of talent.

"We ended up with a lot of kids trying out, there are six of us that are selectors for the district team and it's been one of the hardest, most difficult jobs in all age groups to select the teams," Cain said.

"It's a pity we can't pick all of them, that's how cricket goes, but the standard was very, very good and it's a pleasing sign for Bathurst cricket."

The Andrew Larnach coached under 12s and Matt Stephen's under 14s team will be playing in the Central West Cricket Council competition.

They'll open their campaign with away matches against Orange, while Dubbo, Mudgee and in the case of the under 14s a Central West girls outfit, are their other rivals.

It is a little different for the Greg Innes coached Bathurst under 16s. In move designed to give them a longer representative program than last summer, they will play in a Western Zone competition.

That division includes Bathurst, Orange, Mudgee, a pair of Dubbo sides and a Lachlan Cricket Council representative outfit.

Innes' side will also start their campaign with an away match in Orange this Sunday.

"In 12s and 14s Orange definitely is the rival, in 16s it's a little bit different, Dubbo is obviously out of the Central West [Council boundary] so Dubbo will probably be our main rivals in 16s this year, one of our most competitive games.

"We'll see if Greg can get his 14s from last year to win as 16s, there are a few older 16s there that will be handy for that team as well.

"It's going to be great for the boys, the coaches and all the parents, it's fantastic times for cricket."



DUNG GUN: Elly Rudd was named the best and fairest for the Bathurst Bushrangers women's side for 2021. Photo: PHIL BLATCH

Rudd is rewarded for a stellar year

AUSTRALIAN RULES
ANYA WHITELAW

Elly's got vision and composure, she's got speed and skills and given Elly Rudd is only 18, it also appears she has a big future in Australian football ahead of her. So impressive was Rudd's first full season in the AFL Central West senior women's competition that she dominated the Bathurst Lady Bushrangers' best and fairest vote count, beating out many much more experienced rivals for the top gong. But Rudd's award came as no surprise to Lady Bushrangers co-coach Kelsey Richards, who marveled at the teenager's talent throughout the season. "She got 51 votes, she absolutely blitzed it. I'm really, really proud that she won," Richards said. "I wasn't surprised, this is just what she's just been fantastic. She's superb, she's so versatile in her ability, she's got a utility I think you could say. You can play her in any position and she just runs for days. Myself and some of the other midfielders were

claiming that we got her the award because we'd tell her to run every game," she added with a laugh. Rudd had been earmarked by former Lady Bushrangers coach Brian Matheson to form a key part of the 2020 squad, but she badly dislocated her finger in a training game before the season began. Though being sidelined by injury was a setback, Rudd managed to play three games with the seniors before the end of the season. So when she returned for a full campaign this year, Rudd not only handled the step up, she flourished to the extent Richards at one point compared her with Collingwood AFL great Scott Pendlebury. "She did really well through the youth girls tier. When she was younger she was really touted as an up and coming gun, she was one of the names you'd throw around when talking about who you were excited to see progress up into the senior women's," Richards said. "So her talent is undeniable but her skills are really crisp around the field. That level-head she has and her



Her talent is undeniable but her skills are really crisp around the field.

Kelsey Richards on Elly Rudd

vision on the field is just really fantastic. "She's phenomenal and to be so young, she's got an incredible amount of composure on the field. She always looks so calm and level-headed, it's remarkable she has got such poise for a woman of just 18-years-old. "It's is very enjoyable to watch, even when I was lining up alongside her in the midfield I found myself being a spectator quite a bit and just watching her talent. "It's not all natural talent either, she's worked incredibly hard to build up her skills as well." Rudd has also been named in the first phase Greater Western Sydney Giants academy under 19s squad.



EXAMS: Denison College (Kelso) students Bella Bracken, Brianna Briggs and Charlotte Cosgrove are keen to finish the HSC. Photo: PHIL BLATCH

HSC finally begins for students

EDUCATION

THOUGH a stressful time for Year 12 students around NSW, HSC exams finally kicked off on Tuesday, marking the beginning of the end of their schooling life. After long delays due to COVID, local students have finally been able to

put their knowledge to the test with Denison College (Kelso High) students Bella Bracken, Brianna Briggs and Charlotte Cosgrove all happy to have their first English paper behind them. The second English exam is this morning. "Could have been better, could have been worse,"

Charlotte said. "If the HSC was on in the normal time I would have done better because I studied heaps during the holidays and lockdown but kind of burnt out because it was prolonged for too long." A number of exams will take place over the next three

weeks before students say goodbye to high school life. The girls are looking forward to moving on to the next chapter of their lives with Brianna and Charlotte heading to Wollongong and Bella remaining in Bathurst to study Business Studies at Charles Sturt University.

"I've already got early entry so that's guaranteed which is pretty cool," Bella said. Though HSC exams were meant to have finished by now they will now wind up on Friday, December 3 and the girls are looking forward to celebrating.

- AMY REES

Wednesday 10th November

Friday 5th November



FRIENDS: Lilly Fragar, Nicholle Dalipe, Rose Coleman, Sophie Williams and Aaryanne Churchill.



ZOMBIE HORDE: Isabelle Renshaw, Jack Lamberton, Gabrielle Forshaw, Katelyn Henderson and Maya McGrath.



REMEMBER, REMEMBER: Tara Trindall and Rikki Porter.



SUITED UP TO FIGHT CRIME: Aiden Clancy [Batman], Kurt Hernandez, Reece Belmonte [Wonder Woman], Rios Stathakopoulos, Dion Cosentino [Spiderman] and Ryan Reynolds [Deadpool]. Photos: SAM BOLT

LAST DAY AT KELSO HIGH

Denison College Kelso High Campus' Class of 2021 capped off their final week of schooling on October 29 with a crazy costume day and a jovial bunch of activities. The students commenced the Higher School Certificate this week.



PRINCESS JASMINE: Bella Bracken.



SHARKBOY AND LAVAGIRL: Charlotte Cosgrove and Brianna Briggs.



SUPER: Lily Grimmond, Zoey England, Elly Rudd and Maddy Vallis.



MATES: Danton Barratt and Brody Cooper.

Thursday 11th November

End of an era for volleyball in region

Magnificent run

VOLLEYBALL

BY ALEXANDER GRANT

THIS year not only marks the end of the road for the region's most successful volleyball coach but also for one of the most dominant squads across any sport in the Central West over recent years.

Kelso High School's Jerry Sheader has confirmed that he will not be resuming the volleyball program at Denison College in 2022, opting to spend additional time with his family.

Over the past two decades Sheader has dedicated much of his time towards fostering volleyball talent in the Central West, and it was over the past six years with one particular Denison College side that he truly struck gold.

What began in 2016 as a challenge to build up a year seven girls' squad into something competitive would, by the end of 2021, result in numerous titles and a raft of representative selections.

Sheader points to what he refers to as the "core five" of Maddie Vallis, Lily Grimmond, Teagan Bush, Zara Sheader and Harriet Fitzsimons who were a force to be reckoned with every time they played.

"Each one of those five girls each represented NSW in Combined High Schools competition and also represented outside of school sport. We built the team around those five core players ... and they were essential



WHAT A TEAM: Kelso High School's graduating year 12 volleyball side were a force throughout their time at Denison College. Photo: CONTRIBUTED

to our success," he said.

"Between them we had two outside hitters, one libero, one setter and one universal. They're filling the five most crucial positions and doing so at a very high level."

Sheader believes that over the course of their careers the quintet would have lost somewhere in the vicinity of only six games out of the 80 or so that they played.

Of those defeats they mostly came either in finals

or against more experienced opposition.

It was a remarkable achievement from a group who couldn't have achieved such a record without plenty of dedication.

"In year seven term two that's when the program started, when I ran it at Bathurst High for a year. I'd take the minibus over from Kelso once a week to train.

"We had 30 girls when we started out, and three

teams that went to Sydney for the first tournament. I was surprised over the years, especially that second and third year, of the ability that those girls in that core group were showing.

"In the state program they were travelling every weekend to play for the state team, and it was surprising that we had five girls from the one team representing the state.

"Not only were they committed but they were tal-

ented. They had the energy, interest and skill level but it was a big commitment from their parents as well, given the costs involved. They provided a lot of support."

The team came fourth in year nine with Western at the CHS tournament and then would win in 2019 and 2021.

If it weren't for COVID cancelling the 2020 tournament then it's likely the side would have made it a hat-trick.

Sheader said it's been an amazing experience.

"I was at Blayney prior to here, so I've spent 22 years coaching in the region," he said.

"I still go away with a lot of the ex-students, including the Blayney ones, with the Beavers team each year. It's great hearing from them about how volleyball gave them something that helped them connect to other like-minded people."

Saturday 13th November

Donation gets kids new tech

STUDENTS at Kelso High now have access to the latest technology after the school received \$2500 from Bernardi's Bathurst. The Kelso High Support Unit received the funds through the store's Building Better Communities program, which each year donates \$10,000 to worthy groups. The money has been put towards the purchase of HP laptops. | Full story page 4



HERE'S A CHEQUE: Bernardi's Bathurst manager Michael Ross and HR manager Michelle Hayes with Kelso High School teacher Chris Bergen.

SALLES TALK

Candidates pitch themselves to early voters at pre-poll centres

COUNCIL ELECTION
BY RACHEL CHAMBERLAIN

THEY couldn't hand out election material, but candidates took every opportunity possible to talk to voters as they arrived for day one of pre-poll on Monday.

Due to the pandemic,

there are two pre-polling centres in Bathurst for the local government election, which are located at the Bathurst Girl Guides Hall and the Bathurst Catholic Parish Centre.

Candidates are also prohibited from handing out election material within 100

metres of the polling places, making it more challenging for them to get their message out to voters.

However, they are allowed to stand as close as six metres to the entry of a polling place and talk to voters as they arrive, and that's exactly what a number of candidates did on

Monday.

Where candidates couldn't be present, willing volunteers took on the role of meeting the public.

Sue Douglas was standing in for Group E, a team of five being led by Marg Hogan.

She said it had been a quiet morning at the Catholic

Parish Centre, but there were plenty of voters willing to have a chat.

"It's quiet so far, but we're finding there is an appetite for change in the electorate and there's also an appetite for choosing a new group of councillors that will be able to work together," Ms Doug-

las said.

"There's still a lot of people who are undecided and we're just encouraging them to try something new. A lot of the old councillors, they've done a great job, but they've had their turn. It's time to give some new people a turn."

| To page 4

New laptops for students

COMMUNITY

BY RACHEL CHAMBERLAIN

THE Bernardi's Building Better Communities fund has enabled Kelso High School to purchase laptops for students needing extra support.

Introduced in 2019, the program enables each Bernardi's store to donate \$10,000 per year to worthy groups in their communities.

Every six months, the team chooses three beneficiaries per store to share \$5,000 of donations and it's up to customers to decide how the funds are distributed.

The group with the most votes receives \$2500, while the one with the second highest number of votes receives \$1500. The remaining group gets \$1000.

Bathurst High Waluwin

get things up to date and up to speed, so this is a great opportunity for the school and for our students," he said.

"We've managed to buy four [laptops] with this and the charging station, which is terrific. We're looking at, within the budget, getting a couple more in the next little while."

The school is incredibly thankful to Bernardi's for

running the program and selecting the support unit to be a beneficiary.

"We can't give the Building Better Communities program a big enough rap," Mr Bergen said.

"Working in the support unit, these kids need that extra support to get themselves through school. To be able to have access to the latest electronic equipment, which

is so important to education today, is fantastic."

Bernardi's Bathurst store manager Michael Ross said the support unit was "a worthy cause" and he was happy to see the program supporting local schools.

More than \$130,000 has been provided to Bernardi's communities since the inception of its Building Better Communities program.

Tuesday 23rd November

PEOPLE & PLACES

westernadvocate.com.au/multimedia



HAPPY STAFF: Mitre 10 staff Amy Parker, Charlie Fox and Samantha Ball were happy to be part of the day.



FAMILY DAY: Motana-Rose, Raylene, Kevin and Brian Crawford enjoyed a barbecue lunch while at Mitre 10.



GOOD CAUSE: Locals Andrew Lubos and Mitchell Lombe were happy to support CanAssist at their fundraiser on Saturday.

CANASSIST FUNDRAISER

CanAssist ran a barbecue at Mitre 10 on Saturday, November 20, to raise much-needed funds for cancer patients. The organisation was able to raise over \$1200 thanks to generous locals and Mitre 10 kindly donating money.



FUNDRAISER: Luke and Jasmine Howard supporting CanAssist.



CANASSIST: CanAssist president Gen Croaker (far right) with local Cameron Steer about to enjoy some lunch. Photo: PHIL BLATCH.



PEOPLE & PLACES

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Friday 26th November

Thursday 2nd

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FUNDRAISER: Luke and Jasmine Howard supporting CanAssist.



CANASSIST: CanAssist president Gen Croaker (far right) with local Cameron Steer about to enjoy some lunch. Photo: PHIL BLATCH.

PEOPLE & PLACES

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OPENING: Tracey Callinan (Arts Outwest) performed the opening of the stage reveal at Keystone on Saturday, November 20. 112021ckeystone9a



WE WERE THERE: Alex Vidler with Sammy Taylor. 112021ckeystone5



CHEERS: Chris Bacon with Fred Madden at the Keystone on November 20. 112021ckeystone8



OUT AND ABOUT: Stephene Benger, Alannah Benger and Connie Carr. Photos: CHRIS SEABROOK 112021ckeystone4

NEW STAGE REVEALED

ONE of the jewels in the city's crown, Keystone 1889, unveiled its upgraded stage last month.

There were plenty of people on hand at the opening night on Saturday, November 20.



FRIENDS: Both Ava Northey with Patricia Mae were at the Keystone last month. 112021ckeystone7



SMILES: Murphy and Eliza Munro. 112021ckeystone1



HAVING A BITE: Teena Benger with Yvonne Windus. 112021ckeystone3



GOOD TIMES: Colleen Holding with Penny Williams at Keystone. 112021ckeystone6

y 26th November

Thursday 2nd Decembe

No rust as 14s record a bonus-point success



BONUS START: Blayde Burke, who took 1-16 off seven overs, and his Bathurst under 14 team-mates posted an eight-wicket win. Photo: PHIL BLATCH

CRICKET
BY ANYA WHITELAW

HE HAD expected them to be a little rusty, so when the Bathurst District Cricket Association under 14s began their Central West Cricket Council campaign on Sunday with a bonus-point win, coach Josh Wilcox was delighted.

A wet start to the season meant Wilcox's squad had to wait until Sunday's third round match against the Central West Girls at Morse Park 1 to finally put into action what they'd been practicing.

They executed well with the ball to dismiss the CW Girls for 99, then showed a balance of maturity and ag-

gression to complete the run chase in 16 overs for the loss of just two wickets.

"The first two rounds got washed-out so any time you get on want to make the most of it, especially this year because they've got bonus points in the competition. Getting a bonus point win there makes a huge difference, it was massive getting that," Wilcox said.

"Considering the limited amount of time they'd had to play it was expected to be a bit of a rusty game, but I was very impressed with their batting, it was very skilful.

"The kids were very keen to be able to get on. We've done a lot of work in the pre-season on our fielding

and working as a team and it was impressive to see them do that."

The Bathurst 14s won the toss and elected to bowl first on Sunday. Cooper Stephen was brilliant with the new ball as he conceded just three runs from his four overs and helped build pressure.

Though a number of the CW Girls' top order made starts - Nikera Hann (16 off 45), Calle Black (17 off 21) and Ellen Dobel (15-14) all showing promise - they were unable to go on with the job.

With only nine players, they were all out for 99 in the 29th over.

"A couple of boys with their bowling really really stood out for us, we rotated

through eight bowlers, so it was a good all-round performance," Wilcox said.

"William Moorehead for his debut, it was his first game playing rep cricket for Bathurst, he got 2-14 off four which was pretty impressive."

In reply Bathurst always looked in control with skipper Gilby Glawson (36 not out off 40) and Stephen (29 not out off 30) guiding them to a bonus point win.

"It was smart, there were very little rash shots, very little chances given away, it was really nicely controlled. That was something I really pressed the boys to do, they had plenty of time and to make sure they had plenty of

pride in their wicket and they showed that," Wilcox said.

While it was a tough initiation to the competition for the Central West Girls, Wilcox was impressed by some of the talent within their ranks.

"They actually played really well as a team, they were a couple of players short which did hurt them, they only had nine on the day," he said.

"What was really impressive was their couple of key girls who stood out, their match awareness was better than ours, easily. It was great to see the way they would make field chances and try and account for certain batters in particular, it was very impressive from them."

Nationals group now a trio

SWIMMING
BY ALEXANDER GRANT

BATHURST Swim Club's presence at next year's long course nationals has grown to three, with Caleb Cashman and Alex Evans' recent qualifying times sending them to the top level of Australian competition alongside club-mate Sienna Whalan.

Cashman qualified for the 400 metre individual medley at Saturday's Sydney Olympic Park Aquatic Centre meeting while over the pre-weekend Evans got the time he was chasing for the 100m freestyle.

The under 14s boys duo will be off to Adelaide for the April's Australian Age Swimming Championships with Whalan, who has already

earned her ticket into the 50m, 100m and 200m breaststroke.

Cashman swam a time of 5:16.00 to finish eighth overall at the meeting for the 400m individual medley to go half a second under the required nationals qualifying time.

Davies completed his 100m freestyle in 58.29 to go under the necessary nationals mark of 58.96.

Naturally, Bathurst Swim Club coach Josh Stapley couldn't be happier to see three of his athletes book their journey to South Australia so early.

"Having two qualify in two weeks, I'm absolutely rapt with that," he said.

"We're still early on, too. Nationals aren't until April

so for them to get these times now not only takes the pressure off them and me, but it means we can start preparing for nationals in earnest instead of preparing for them in hope.

"For both of them the 400IM will be their pet event, and I think they'll have the chance to probably get another half a dozen times. They've narrowly missed out on a lot of other events too.

"Alex will look to the 200 and 400IM, the 50 freestyle and potentially the 50 and 100 butterfly. Caleb has the 200IM, 50 and 100 free on his mind too."

Stapley is stoked to have a trio of representatives at next year's nationals but he remains hopeful that the Ba-



THEY'RE IN: Caleb Cashman and Alex Evans have qualified for next year's Australian Age Swimming Championships in Adelaide in the 400m individual medley and 100m freestyle respectively.

thrust numbers at the event can still increase.

"It's been a long time coming and I've been building towards this for nearly two and a half years now. It's always been the goal. I wanted a nationals swimmer within 12

months and I would have got that [with Whalan] had it not been for COVID," he said.

"Now having three - and a lot more looking likely - is great. And the thing is that success breeds success. Sienna qualified last year and

now we've had some of the older guys coming through and looking to challenge as well, which in turn inspires our younger swimmers.

"We had Tyler [Johnson] narrowly miss out on a national time last year. He's chasing very hard again for his times this year. He's pushing the younger 14-year-olds. It's great having a program of that calibre.

"They all get along so well at training. They enjoy training together and they have fun with each other. They push each other, and when you couple that with the strength of competition here in the Central West, with Kinross down the road, it helps them succeed as well."

The Age Championships will run from April 11 to 18.

Wednesday 8th December

NRL final trophy on display

PANTHERS Bathurst has been lucky enough to secure the NRL grand final trophy for eight weeks to give local fans an opportunity to see it and get a picture. Panthers Bathurst general manager John Fearnley hopes the Provan-Summons Trophy attracts people to the club and local Panthers fans make the most of the opportunity to see it close up.

| Full story, page 4



SPECIAL VISIT: Bathurst Panthers Juniors and Panthers Bathurst general manager John Fearnley with the NRL grand final trophy. Photo: AMY REES

A cut above: students use their heads to support a good cause

TEACHER Elise Woods turned auctioneer before a charity head shave at Kelso High on Thursday afternoon.

She was taking bids for the right to cut off one of Rhys Bray's hastily created pigtails before the rest of his hair came off for a good cause.

In the end, that privilege was purchased for a generous \$100 by student Riley Robinson, who said afterwards that his decision had been spontaneous.

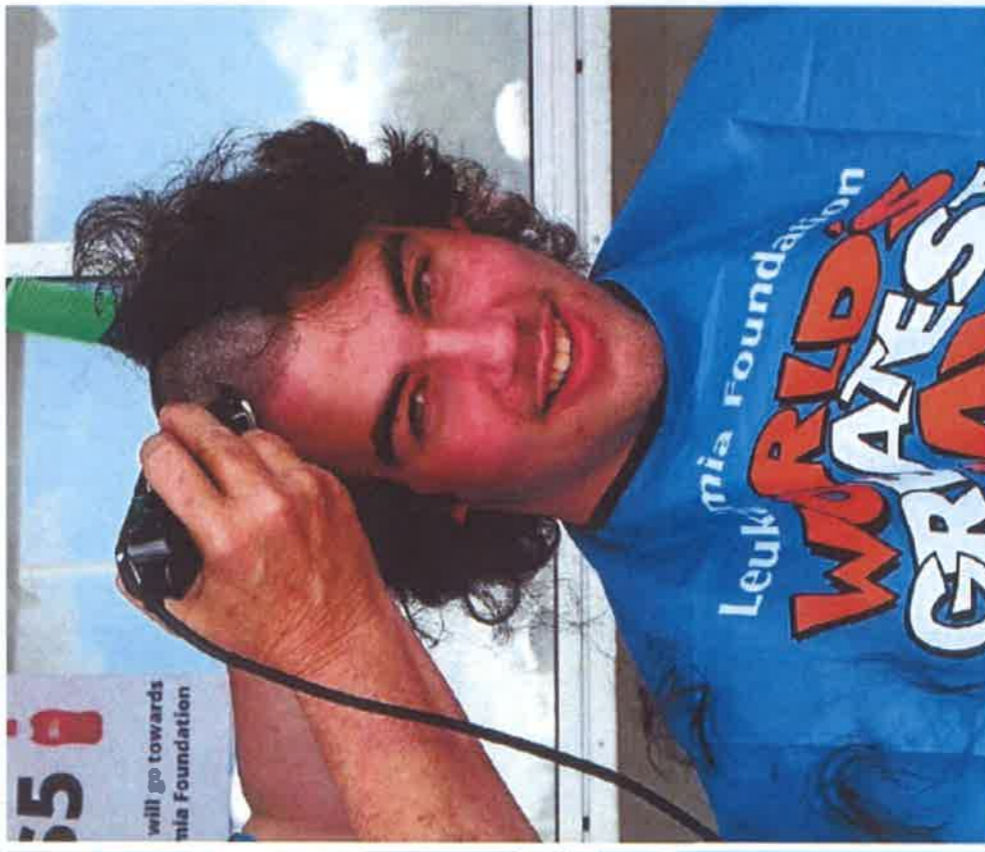
Rhys and Jakeb Gibbons, year 10 students at Kelso High, had not had a haircut for six months or so before they took a seat in front of fellow students and teachers and faced the big chop.

They looked at ease as the clipper whirred into life and smiled as their audience shouted encouragement or gave them updates on how they were looking.

The boys said it was a chance to have a bit of fun and raise some money for a good cause.

And they'd easily achieved the second of those two aims.

They had raised about



THERE IT GOES: Rhys Bray and Jakeb Gibbons lose their hair during a fundraiser at Kelso High on Thursday.

\$1400 - effortlessly eclipsing their goal - before the head shave and that total was boosted by a fundraiser sausage sizzle on Thursday.

Ms Woods said Thomas Dibley of Domino's Kelso had kindly donated pizzas for the head shave and sponsored the event.

The head shave proceeds will go to the Leukaemia Foundation, which says it uses funds raised to offer specialist support to those diagnosed with blood cancer, to fund leading-edge research and to campaign with blood cancer.

The foundation says the World's Greatest Shave events have raised more than \$290 million since starting back in 1998.

Friday 10th December

Reuben joins the Kelso High honour roll

EDUCATION

A MAN who was the first person of Indigenous heritage to graduate with a PhD at the University of Sydney's Faculty of Health Sciences has joined an exclusive Kelso High School club.

Reuben Bolt, who was also the first person in his family to complete the HSC, is the latest recipient of the Kelso High Decade Award.

The award recognises a student who completed their secondary education at Kelso High more than 10 years ago and has gone on to outstanding success or has

excelled in their chosen field. Previous winners include a genetic researcher, actress and international architect.

Mr Bolt finished his HSC in 1994 and, after travelling nationally and internationally for four years with a traditional Aboriginal dance group, started a Diploma of Health Science at Sydney University in 1998.

He graduated from Sydney University in 2001, completing his Bachelor of Health Science with Honours, and completed a Master of Media Arts and Production at the University of Technology in



RECOGNISED: Reuben Bolt finished his HSC at Kelso High in 1994.

Sydney from 2002 to 2004. He graduated with a PhD at the University of Sydney's

Faculty of Health Sciences in 2009. From 2003 to 2012, Mr

Bolt convened more than 50 university courses across six higher education institutions in the Sydney region.

He became the director of the University of NSW Nura Gili Centre for Indigenous Programs in 2016.

His research background traverses Indigenous studies, health science, microsociology, business administration, media arts and identity studies.

Mr Bolt has also been made a director of three boards: the Brien Holden Vision Institute; the Strehlow Research Centre (a museum

In recognition of his academic contributions to the University of NSW, he was made an honorary associate professor.

Mr Bolt joined Charles Darwin University in Darwin in 2020 as the pro vice-chancellor indigenous leadership. He currently oversees the Indigenous Knowledge Centre at CDU.

This year he was promoted to deputy vice-chancellor first nations leadership.

Archer has a five-for, could nab a hat-trick

CRICKET

BY ANYA WHITE LAW

HE'S already picked up the first five-wicket haul of his cricketing career and now Oscar Archer is dreaming about the delivery which could deliver him a hat-trick.

On Saturday the 15-year-old was the star as ORC made a brilliant start to its Bathurst District Cricket Association presidents cup match against Bathurst City Quigley.

He took 5-18 off his 6.6 overs, the last two victims of the innings coming on consecutive deliveries.

"I'm on a hat-trick the next game, so that's pretty exciting," he enthused.

"Yeah, I'm thinking about the hat-trick ball. I've got so much plans in my head, so I guess I'll see which one I do."

While it remains to be seen if he can strike first-up when he next gets the chance to bowl, Archer's five-for is something he can relish.

He is just the second player in the presidents cup this season to pull off the feat, following on from Bathurst Bushrangers talent Amy Corbett who took an amazing 5-9 off her four overs against Rugby Union in early November.

"That was my first one, it felt great, it was amazing," he said of the five-for.

"I've not particularly been bowling for long but I've recently been pretty good at it, so I've been going for wickets."

Archer now also sits on top of the leading wicket-takers list in his competition, having claimed 12 victims across four matches.

He's also given ORC a chance to jump from sixth into the top four as he helped



BIG DAY OUT: Fifteen-year-old Oscar Archer snared the first five-wicket haul of his cricket career on Saturday. When he next bowls for ORC he'll be on a hat-trick too. **Photo: CONTRIBUTED**

bowl out Bathurst City Quigley for 92 then the Tigers reached 3-84 in reply before stumps on day one of their two-day clash.

Archer took two wickets with the new ball on Saturday at Learmonth Park 1, putting Bathurst City in early trouble at 3-13.

Did he expect then he was on for something special? "Absolutely not" the teenager revealed.

However, as the match

unfolded Archer continued to bowl well and after finishing his first spell, could not wait to get the ball back in his hands.

"Give me the ball - that's exactly what I was thinking. I just had a break for a little bit and would come back the next spell, that's what the captain told me," he said.

"When I came back on he told me to go after it, so I was happy to respond."

Archer went on to polish

off the Bathurst City tail - Ruben Martin-Clark helping him out with a pair of catches - to enjoy his best day with the ball thus far.

"They were prime, they were amazing. I was absolutely happy with them," Archer said.

"Sometimes the wickets you can get are pretty easy, but these wickets, they were good players so it was good to knock them over."

"The pitch was not bounc-

ing a lot, so I just put it on a good length and if it doesn't bounce then it will stay low, if it did bounce it would go high.

"It was those areas in a good length that were playing tricks, so that's where to bowl."

"Everyone was up. Yeah I did raise the ball. I loved it."

ORC needs nine more runs this Saturday to claim first innings honours, with seven wickets still in hand.

TRAIN TO GAIN



ON A MISSION: Roxy George has been training hard to add to her representative basketball resume now she's under 18s eligible. Photo: CONTRIBUTED

BASKETBALL

BY ANYA WHITELAW

SHE'S part of the Basketball NSW State Performance Program, she's in the frame for her under 18 NSW Country debut and she's also aiming to play D-League in 2022 - Roxy George is certainly one talented and driven teenager.

While many her age enjoy a good sleep-in, 15-year-old George has been setting her alarm at 5am once a week and the heading off the Lithgow to train.

That's not all she has been doing either.

"I've been waking up at 5am for 6am training sessions in Lithgow. I've been doing that once a week for like 20 weeks," George said.

"I've also had my local training each week as well and then CrossFit to keep my fitness up."

Bathurst Goldminer George made the commitment to work hard in training to put herself in the frame for representative honours.

Though she's had plenty already, that she now finds herself as a bottom-age player in the under 18s bracket means she faces stiffer competition. It means she has been delighted selectors have still noticed her.

As one of the NSW Country players in the State Performance Program, George will join the best young NSW Metro talents for weekly training sessions.

That should help her cause to make the cut to play at the under 18 Australian Country Championships, which will

be staged at Ballarat in April.

She has been named in a squad of 20, which will be trimmed following a camp at Maitland at the end of January.

"I've only just gone up to the under 18s age group and I've been selected in a State Performance Program and been chosen in the Country side which is a squad of 20 girls and they'll cut that to a team of 10," she said.

"I was very shocked, but I'm so happy because I've put in a lot of work to make this. I am pretty keen to make that final 10."

George is also hoping to be announced in a D-League squad this week. She was picked to participate in the under 16s tournament this year, but COVID-19 meant the competition did not go ahead.

The D-League was designed by Basketball NSW to help aid the development of talented juniors by having them train, play and coach against each other in a tournament-style environment.

"They pick the top 20 kids from Country and Metro and then they combine them into teams, they pick an under 17s team and under 18s," she said. "I'm hoping to be in the under 18s."

The D-League is set to take place in January and if selected, it will add to George's already busy schedule.

"Our Western Junior League will start up and I'll have some CrossFit comps in there as well, and some basketball camps - so it will be very busy," she said.

Wednesday 15th December

Helpful take on local Lions Club initiatives



HELPING HANDS: Bathurst Leo Club members Brendan Hampton, John Attard, Loukia Robson and Cedric Peniata learn how to prepare a community barbecue at the Bathurst Lions Club shed in Short Street. **Photo: SAM BOLT**

Bathurst Lions Club president Mal Purves said their main goal is to mentor members of the Leo Club to the point where they're able to stage youth-centric events on their own.

"It's one thing to come and help us run our regular events and initiatives, but we want to empower the Leo Club to engage with their

peers via events centred around youth participation," Mr Purves said.

"We understand a lot of these young people will reach a point in their lives where they'll have to move for work or university, but we're giving them a foundation to develop sound leadership and citizenship skills to aid in their personal

development."

With COVID stalling much of the Leo Club's operations for 2021, Mr Purves said there will be a concerted effort to develop the club further in 2022.

"We already have a little over 10 members involved with the Leo Club, and we hope to raise the profile of the club further into the new

year, where it's hoped community events will return to a more familiar routine," he said.

"There's also the ulterior motive of generating youth interest in Lions Club activities, as we're not getting any younger after all."

For more information, visit the Bathurst Leo Club Facebook page.



GOOD WORK: Roxy George recently attended her first State Performance Program camp. **Photo: GOLDMINERS BASKETBALL CLUB.**

George stepping it up

BASKETBALL

BY AMY REES

THIS time last week, local junior basketball player Roxy George was having the time of her life at the State Performance Program camp (SPP) for the first time in her career.

The two-day induction to the program was held last Monday and Tuesday and focused on assessing the players' abilities to work on developing their skills further.

Trials for the program

were held in December with 20 female basketball players from the country and 20 from the metropolitan areas all coming together to earn a spot in the SPP.

"It's fun," George said. "We had testing, I think we had three training sessions and shooting testing and heaps of talks."

"In the testing there was about 90 girls and we had the yo-yo test which is like the beep test and I got eighth in that so I was happy with that."

George has competed in trials for the SPP in the past but this is the first she has made the program, an accomplishment she is very excited about.

At only 15 years of age, George's goal for 2022 is to make the state side and compete at a national level against the other states around the country.

Trials for the state team will take place at the end of January.

"It would mean a lot [to

make the state team] because of all the hard work I've been putting in for this," George said.

"I've been playing for about seven years." As well as preparing for state trials, George will be getting ready for the Western Junior League competition with Bathurst Goldminers.

The talented basketballer will player in under 18s for the local team, who are hoping to have a good season after the club's under 18s mens

and womens teams finished as premiers respectively last season.

The tournament will commence down in the Riverina on February 19 and 20 before Bathurst will joint-host the final three rounds.

The Goldminers are just starting to return to training with a few casual sessions before their full regimens commence.

Between local and state teams, 2022 is set to be a big year for George.

Friday 12th December

Little has got a big passion

AUSTRALIAN RULES
BY ANYA WHITELAW

RUNNING around at George Park on an evening when the temperature sat at 30 degrees - it might not be everyone's idea of fun, but it was something Lucy Little embraced.

Little was amongst those players who turned out at the first training session of 2022 for the Bathurst Giants' women's side on Monday.

The 17-year-old is keen to continue her development in the sport as she graduates from the youth girls outfit into a senior Giants side which is a powerhouse of the AFL Central West's women's competition.

It's a sport she tried for the first time last season and one she soon developed a pas-

sion for. "I started because I wanted to do a sport as I didn't do a sport the year before. I used to go to D2F and some of my friends from there said 'You should come and play AFL,'" Little said.

"So thought I'd give it a try. 'I like the sport so I wanted to keep it going this year. I just want to go out and do it.' Little's path into the AFL-CW mirrors that of many of her fellow Giants. While she'd had no previous Australian rules experience, some of the skills she had gained across other sporting codes helped her to adjust.

"I've played a bunch of other sports, I used to do boxing, soccer, netball, gymnastics, dancing," she said. "It was so weird to start,

the first time I kicked the ball I was terrible, it took me weeks, months to figure out how to actually kick it properly.

"But as soon as I got the hang of it I loved it, the environment is so good, everyone who is here is so supportive, it's great."

After spending her debut season in a critical position, Little saying: "Last year I was the tallest in my team, so obviously that meant ruck". This year she is eager to play wherever she best fits into the senior side.

Mick Sloan, who coaches the side alongside Liz Kennedy, has already seen Little in action.

"I umpired quite a few games of youth girls last year. She was great," he said.



BACK AT IT: The Bathurst Giants women have begun training for season 2022.

"She'd never played, but she was tall and athletic. She's keen to learn and she's coming into a really good squad. There is lots of support and teachers."

Little will be one of the new faces in the side for

2022. While the Giants have lost experienced trio Aimee Schmidt, Amber Stockman and Mikaela Kingham, they have retained the core of the squad which won the 2021 minor premierships.

The first assignment for

that squad will be a pre-season carnival at Queanbeyan in late February.

"Queanbeyan is just a great opportunity for us to play at a really high level it's ACT AFLW and there's also teams from Sydney and teams from the Central Coast," Sloan said.

"So it will be a much higher level than we're used to that's why we are starting so early, to get a good base in before we get to the carnival."

Sloan revealed that the Giants will be joined by players from other AFLCW clubs in Queanbeyan as well.

"We asked the rep girls who went to Nowra last year if they were keen, it will be good for them and good for us to have a competitive side," he said.

Cashman picks up several national times

SWIMMING

MORE national qualifying times have come the way of Bathurst Swim Club's Caleb Cashman following a strong showing at Kinross Wolaroi's time trials over the weekend.

Cashman will now be competing in the 100 metre and 200m breaststroke events at nationals after a pair of strong swims, adding to the 400m individual medley he'd already qualified for late last year.

Bathurst currently has Cashman, Alex Evans and Sienna Whalan qualified for nationals, with several other

swimmers right on the doorstep of joining the trio.

"Kinross invited us to come along and it was a great opportunity for him to race with some good competition around him. Being in a short course pool, the times you have to achieve are faster but our guys are used to racing in that pool," he said.

"Caleb had actually achieved that 100m time earlier in the week at training on Thursday. We were really confident with that time going in. The 200m was a bit of a bonus. Having those ticked off are great because



EXPANDING PROGRAM: Caleb Cashman, pictured with coach Josh Stapley, has expanded his program at nationals to three events, and he'll be trying to keep adding to that figure.

they were looking like two of his harder ones about three months ago.

"Across the board we've got a lot of other swimmers that are in the realm of their

qualifying times. Hopefully senior state gives them a bigger platform and some good competition to chase those times even harder.

"We're lucky that we've got a lot of major championships that are happening between now and April."

It was a busy weekend for the club, who had swimmers at various venues across the state.

"I took a group of 13 swimmers to Griffith for the NSW Country Regionals event down there. We had a couple of standouts with Logan Johnson and Kosema Finau,"

Stapley said.

"They both picked up seven PBs each, which was a massive haul for them. Kosema and Tyler Johnson both put on really good results as well, getting the most points for our club and picking up a few regional medals.

"We finished the weekend off with Sienna Whalan having a testing day with the New South Wales squad on Monday. It was great to see her test herself against the national standard with some of the other NSW squad members."

—ALEXANDER GRANT

Duo are up for a challenge

CRICKET

BY ALEXANDER GRANT

BATHURST'S Cooper Stephen and Blayde Burke are ready to take on the best that regional NSW has to offer at the upcoming Under 14s State Challenge starting this Monday in Dubbo.

The pair have earned a spot in the South West Kangaroos side thanks to their efforts at December's Under 14s NSW Youth Championships with the Central West Wranglers.

The Wranglers ended up winning three of their seven games, including a win over rivals Western Plains Outlaws.

Stephen captained the Wranglers squad and led by example as he finished equal second on the wicket takers

list with nine dismissals at an average of 7.11, to go along with his 87 runs.

He produced back-to-back knocks of 33 and 22 over rounds two and three, and in the second of those matches he capped off a great all-round performance with bowling figures of 3-12 - helping the Wranglers knock over the ACT Barons.

Stephen claimed at least one wicket in every match where he bowled.

Burke was the best of the Central West side on the overall batting chart from the tournament, at 15th with 127 runs.

He was the top scorer for the Wranglers in the victory over the Outlaws, with 36 runs.

Burke then followed that



SELECTED: Blayde Burke (inset) and Cooper Stephen will be part of the South West Kangaroos side for the Under 14s State Challenge at Dubbo. Photo: CHRIS SEABROOK

with Baden, Toby and Blayde but I don't know anyone else in the group but we got to play against them. I'm keen to see how we go."

It's certainly been far from an ideal lead up to the tournament for Burke, who has

found himself caught up in the ongoing COVID pandemic, but that hasn't diminished his excitement for the return to Dubbo.

"Luckily I got hit by it early enough that I'm still able to go," Burke said from his

home on Tuesday, where he was in his final few days of isolation.

"I was really happy with how I performed at Dubbo. I got close to having a couple of half centuries and we didn't do too bad as a team. We gelled quite well."

Burke has worked hard to evolve his game over the past few years and it's paying off.

"I performed quite well with the ball too over there. I bowl spin now. I did start out as a medium pacer but moved across to that," he said.

"That's been going really well for me and all my coaches have been happy with the way it's going."

"I did start out more as a bowler but I've been working on my batting."



HAPPY TRIO: Bathurst Swim Club's Emily Saint, Hadlie Henson and Violet Henson enjoyed the weekend's racing at the Grenfell Swim Carnival. Photo: CONTRIBUTED

Great Grenfell results, focus turns to state

SWIMMING

BY ALEXANDER GRANT

THE great carnival results keep on coming for the Bathurst Swim Club this summer, with the latest batch of them arriving at the weekend's carnival at Grenfell.

A group of nine Bathurst swimmers made a splash, with several personal bests and medals making their way back home.

The best of the bunch was Gemma Cashman with five personal best times and medals from all seven of her events - four of which were gold.

Caleb Cashman finished with gold in all five of his events, and had personal bests in four of those swims.

The carnival was also a chance for club member Emily Saint, 12, to continue her recovery from an ankle injury.

Saints still came away with silver medals in 50 and 100 freestyle as well as a bronze in the 50 butterfly.

Saint said she's still a while of feeling 100 per cent but it's great to be back in competition again.

"I'm recovering from a soft tissue injury in my ankle. I did that probably around two months ago and it's still playing up," she said.

"I did a carnival the weekend before and it swelled up. It's getting a bit better but I still can't do any breaststroke and backstroke.

"I'm hoping to go to Country Championships when they come up in the middle of February."

It's crunch time now for the club's senior swimmers who are getting ready to take on the state's top swimmers.

The 2022 NSW Senior State Championships get underway from this Thursday at the

Sydney Olympic Park Aquatic Centre.

"It's the biggest group we've ever had. We have 11 swimmers across 42 individual events and six relays," Bathurst Swim Club coach Josh Stapley said.

"This is a big chance for nationals time, especially at the fast pool at SOPAC, and with the high level of competition by bringing all the best from the state together.

"We're lucky that in the Central West we've got some great swimmers to push them, and some of our guys are getting towards the top of that group. For them to go away and have that fast competition will be a big change, and I'm sure a lot of them will perform better on the big stage.

"That atmosphere will push them. We have the chance to qualify for finals, so that's two chances to qualify for nationals in the same event should they make it through."

A diligent all-round effort

KELSO HIGH
BY SAM BOLT

ALTHOUGH the wait for exams and results was longer than expected, Kelso High Campus' Year 12 graduates have expressed welcome signs of relief with their Higher School Certificate [HSC] results after two difficult years of study.

Among the cohort, Jack Lamberton achieved a band 6 in business studies and a number of band 5's, Narayan Wainwright achieved an E4 grade in English extension 2 and Fergus Mashman scored a band 6 in music, which he studied at Bathurst High Campus.

Narayan said he was also impressed with his marks in English extension 1, English advanced and ancient history.

"I got the marks I needed at the end of the day, and I feel my deep interest in reading and writing especially helped my results in English," he said.

"The plan for this year is to take some time off, and maybe consider university in 2023."



TOP EFFORT: Kelso High Campus Year 12 graduates Narayan Wainwright and Tatiana Bosma were both satisfied with the work they put into the Higher School Certificate.

Fergus was too impressed with his results, commenting that the opportunity to study music at Bathurst High throughout his senior years played a big role in his music result.

"It was great to meet all the Bathurst High students, and I learned just as much there as I did here at Kelso," he said. "I'm planning to study music and performance at the Australian National University in Canberra this, with a goal to become a successful freelance musician, preferably within the contemporary jazz genre."

But for many students, the HSC was an exercise in



TUNEFUL: Fergus Mashman achieved a band 6 in music, which he studied at Bathurst High Campus through the Denison College senior course program.

trying their best and making the most of what was a disruptive lead-up to exams, with students emerging from lockdown only weeks prior.

For Tatiana Bosma, the experience in sitting the HSC with everything else going on felt quite surreal.

"It was quite strange experience sitting the HSC for a while, we weren't even sure it would go ahead, but I simply focused on putting in the best effort I could," Tatiana said.

"I've got early entry offers for business degrees at both Western Sydney and Charles Sturt universities, so I'm going to use this year to work

and save some money. Kelso High principal Mick Sloan said he's really proud of the exemplary resilience students and staff have shown throughout two difficult years of senior study.

"A parent made the comment that the students and staff should be really proud for hanging in there throughout such a difficult time, and I feel that'll be the message highlighted by all secondary schools," Mr Sloan said.

"Our focus has always been ensuring all our graduating students are aware of the multiple pathways they can take to prosper in life after school."

Countdown to new season

RUGBY LEAGUE
BY ALEXANDER GRANT

TWO straight missed opportunities to play in a Group 10 finals series that they qualified for has Bathurst Panthers keener than ever to get stuck into their pre-season, which officially got underway on Tuesday.

The team have managed to retain the bulk of their side for their first foray into the new Peter McDonald Premiership, and will welcome back players from injury as they take on Group 11 opposition for the first time in a regular season.

Panthers coach Jake Betts would have loved to help co-ordinate the first training sessions in the new year but the new leader of the team

has found himself caught up in the latest COVID-19 surge across the region.

"Ben Gunn and Blake Lawson ran the Tuesday session and they'll run the next one, then I'll be back next week," he said.

"I think everyone's in the same boat [with players in isolation] and luckily I wasn't too crook. There are a lot of people worse off than me. I definitely looking forward to getting back out there."

One of the big names to be back healthy in a Panthers training session for the first time in a while was Blake Lawson, who suffered a season-ending injury before the opening round had even arrived.

"Lawso did his knee in the knockout last year and he's

been working hard on his rehab," Betts said.

"He's keen as mustard. I don't think I've ever seen him this keen to play, and he should be right to play for round one. It's exciting for us as a club to have him back. He was a big loss for us last year.

"The rest of the boys are looking pretty healthy, because with the way it was last year when you're playing one week then having two or three weeks off there was plenty of time for all the niggling, little injuries to heal up."

Panthers are currently in the midst of one of the club's strongest dynasties since its formation, and they'll hope to continue that strong form as they enter a new compe-



BACK IN THE FOLD: Following a missed season due to injury Blake Lawson is back in action with the Bathurst Panthers, and has been helping co-ordinate pre-season workouts. **Photo: PHIL BLATCH**

season," he said. "Then there's usual guys like Shifty [Nick Loader] and Jed [Betts]. It's going to be so good getting everyone back together. We've been pretty lucky having everyone together so long after coming through juniors.

"We've been pretty fortunate with that, and we've got a really good group of under 18s at the moment too. We're trying to set things up to be able to keep doing that for the next five to six years as well."

at any point during the 2022 top grade competition.

"It's looking pretty much the same as last year. I'm really looking forward to seeing Keelan come back. He was, in my opinion, the best player in the comp last

First thing on the agenda for the Panthers will be their knockout carnival which is set to be held at Carrington Park on March 4 and 5, where they may also have the first opportunity to see Group 11 opponents.

RUGBY LEAGUE
BY ANYA WHITELAW

Expansion is the way to go: Carter

YOUNG GUNS: Abbey Carter, Olivia Bednal, Sam Hanrahan, Laura Holden and Andie Miller will play for the under 14 Platypi this season. The Panorama club is still looking for more junior players.



MICK Carter is only new to coaching in the Western Women's Rugby League competition, but he's seen enough to know how important it is to female talents within the region.

He's seen enough to believe an expansion from the current seven-week format into a full season is something which should be seriously considered by officials.

"I love it, I think they should make it a full-on tackle comp through the year," he said.

"Like girls who play tackle with the boys up until they're 12, after that they're lost or have got to go and play league tag or are looking for something else.

"This is great at the end of the [Group 10] season, but I think it would be great if there was a tackle comp all the way through the year. If you want to play in an NRL women's side, where do you go? This comp would help that.

"It would be a great concept if they could do it." While Carter had not

previously coached a junior girls side before signing up to guide the under 14 Panorama Platypi this season, he has a lengthy junior coaching record with Bathurst Panthers.

He has seen how they have benefitted from having good development pathways in place and is keen to see the region's female talents get the same opportunities.

Since Western introduced a women's tackle competition in 2016 it has gone from an opens only nine-a-side competition played on one evening to now seeing six clubs competing across five grades.

While there was initially talks of having the current season run for 10 weeks, it will consist of five rounds then a two-week finals series.

That is part due to it being postponed from last September to February-March due to the COVID-19 lockdown of regional New South Wales.

The pandemic and timing has also had an impact on numbers, so Carter is on the hunt for more players to join

his under 14s. The Platypi are seeking more players for all their junior age divisions.

"The girls that I've had at training have been good. The first training session I had at Carrington when footy was still going I had about 19 people then, it was a good hit out, but COVID has scared players I guess," Carter said.

"It is very exciting, hopefully we get some more players. Because of COVID a lot of players who were going to play are out, so I think I'm down to 12 or 15."

While hoping to boost the numbers in his squad, Carter does have a number of experienced Platypi such as his daughter Abbey.

He thinks they have the potential to play finals football.

"They've got five rounds now so it's still a decent hit out for them, couple of home games, couple of away games. That calibre of players we had training before Christmas, I think we're a good enough side to contend in the semi-finals," he said.

"A lot of the girls have a lot of skills so it will be interesting to see how it goes."

The season kicks off on February 12.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

There's more to these two years than the marks at end

RE: HSC results. I know there will be the usual comparisons between schools, but to quote a friend of mine: "Congratulations to every teacher and school leader who have supported last year's HSC cohort through the toughest two years of learning. It's not the number of Band 6s, it's the number of lives you improve daily."

Hans Stroeve, Kelso

Tuesday 25th January

Friday 21st January '22

Saturday 22nd January

Kennedy's goal rules

Giants skipper is an AFLW ambassador

AUSTRALIAN RULES
BY ANYA WHITELAW

WHEN Katie Kennedy was growing up her dream was to become a dancer, but now her dream is to get more females involved with Australian rules football and she's just been given a big opportunity to help make that happen.

The Bathurst Giants skipper has been named the AFLW Community Ambassador for the ACT-NSW AFL region.

It means she gets invitations to football networking events, she will attend the AFLW finals series and she also gets a \$1,000 grant to help her beloved Giants.

"Kennedy is 'so excited' at the opportunities the ambassador role presents and now laughs that were it not for stage fright, she might have been a dancer instead of finding a footy passion

"I wanted to be a dancer, that was my dream," the 23-year-old said.

"But then Mum and Dad were like 'No, we're paying all this money for you to run on stage but then run off because of stage fright, so you're going to go and play footy with the boys. That's what they're doing, it means everyone is in the same sport'."

"Because my brothers were involved in the sport, it was just easier for me to go and play footy."

So Kennedy joined her brothers in taking part in Auskick programs and now, 12 years on, she's been given an honour she had no idea she was in contention for.

It was Kathy Sloan, who recently became the first female president of a senior AFL Central West club, that nominated fellow Giant Kennedy for the ambassador role.

"I didn't actually know that I had applied for it because Kath Sloan did it for me. So when I got the call to say I'd won, I was in so much shock because I hadn't applied for anything. I was thinking 'Why did this happen?' I was so confused," Kennedy revealed.

"Absolutely I'm glad she put it in. I'm honoured that

she thought of me and that I would be worthy to be nominated - let alone actually win it.

"It's such a good opportunity and I'm so excited. There's one ambassador for every state. Just to be recognised, it's a bit like 'What the hell?'. Like even now I can't believe that it has happened."

After her beginnings with Auskick as a junior, Kennedy did try other sports once she'd finished that program.

She did still get limited rules experience - in 2011 she was selected for the NSW Blue Birds - but in 2015 when AFL Central West added a women's premier-ship Kennedy signed up as a Bathurst Lady Bushranger.

"I played with the boys up until I was 14 then obviously girls can't play anymore and there wasn't any women's league back then. So there was a big gap for me when wasn't any women's team and I had to go play at state," she said.

"I played netball, I played hockey a little bit but I was too aggressive with the stick. I played soccer - but yeah, here we are, playing senior footy.

"It's a lot of hard work and dedication, but I wouldn't change it for the world."

After her time with the Bathurst Bushrangers, Kennedy decided she wanted to form a second senior female side in the city.

Her first attempt in 2017 failed, but next season she tried again and this time the Bathurst Giants women's side was formed.

"That was probably the biggest challenge. We tried in 2017 to get it happening and we just couldn't get it done," she said.

"Then in 2018 I was like okay and said this was the year I was going to make it happen. I wanted a team that loves each other and play their footy because they love the game and not because they want to win premierships and beat teams by 100 points. I just wanted a team I love that's more like a family.

"So I made the push, I recruited one of the girls from school and she had a lot of contacts from netball. Slowly people started turning up at



HUGE HONOUR: Bathurst Giants skipper Katie Kennedy has been selected as an AFLW Community Ambassador. Photo: CONTRIBUTED



NICE STYLE: Bathurst Giants skipper Katie Kennedy pumps the Sherrin down field to a team-mate. Photo: PHIL BLATZCH



GIANT FAMILY: Giants skipper Katie Kennedy (seated) considers her Giants to not just be team-mates, but family. Photo: PHIL BLATZCH

training and other people in the club were telling their female friends to come and play.

"It was a lot of hard work and 'Is this going to happen because last year we were put into the comp and they had to re-do the whole draw when we didn't get a side?'"

"It was even if we could get nine players, that's what we were aiming for, nine players, but then we ended up winning our first game and then made the grand final in our first year."

While Kennedy's main aim when she formed the Giants - and still her priority now - is to get enjoyment from playing football and

building friendships, success has come for the women in charcoal and orange.

They made the grand final their first year which they narrowly lost by nine points to Dubbo, the following season they bettered local rivals the Lady Bushrangers in the decider and in the 2020 premiership decider, the Giants held the Demons to just a pair of behinds on their way to glory.

Last year the Giants were minor premiers and qualified for a direct path to the grand final, but due to COVID-19 that's where the season ended.

It's been a remarkable run of success, but Kennedy

admits she is still amazed at some of the football her team-mates produce.

"We don't go out onto that field to beat anyone or try and kick as many goals as we can, we go out there because we like playing with each other, we like what we do when we are on the field," she said.

"We do these link ups and it's like 'Holy cow, we actually know how to play footy'. That was shocking to us at the start, but we just seem so well connected that we know what each other is thinking."

While Kennedy had achieved her goal of forming a side that feels more like

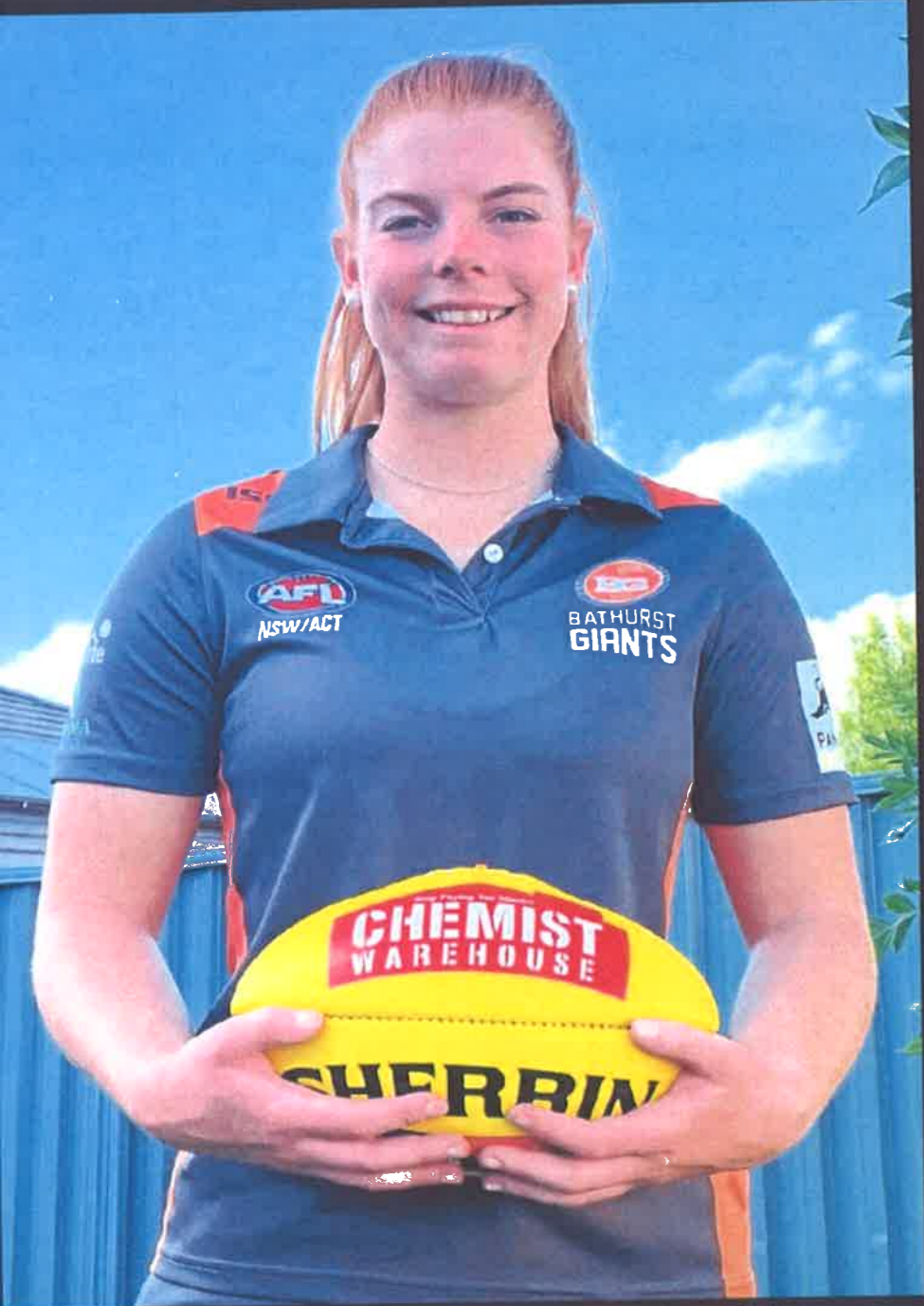
family, she wants to see the sport continue to grow in Bathurst and across the Central West.

She wants to see more girls find that passion for footy she discovered.

"All we wanted to do was have fun, I just wanted to have more girls playing footy. It was great there was already one team in Bathurst, but I wanted every single girl in Bathurst to chose AFL as their first sport," she said.

"We are slowly getting there, we've had two youth girls teams in Bathurst since the inception of that competition too. I never would have thought I'd see that."

Kennedy's a new ambassador



AN HONOUR: It came as a huge shock for Bathurst Giants skipper Katie Kennedy when she found out she'd been named an AFLW Community Ambassador.

WHEN Katie Kennedy got the phone call to tell her she'd been named an AFLW Community Ambassador she was a little confused - after that it was just excitement.

The Bathurst Giants skipper has been selected to represent the NSW-ACT region.

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Wednesday 26th January

Jude joins publishing fray

Kelso High teacher launches a memoir

LITERATURE
BY SAM BOLT

SHE'S spent the last decade as a teacher across Denison College's two campuses, Kelso High and Bathurst High, but on the side, Jude Murphy has been writing about her life and experiences, much of which has resulted in her debut book.

Ms Murphy's memoir, *Scrapbooks and Broken Strings*, explores the many highs and lows of growing up, including the challenges of young adulthood, managing grief and navigating friendships and relationships, as well as the challenges of motherhood and the impact of postnatal depression.

"I had a really difficult pregnancy with my daughter, Sienna [now 10], which actually resulted in me developing post-natal psychosis," she said.

"As a single mother, it was a struggle to get back to work [Kelso High at the time] while I was dealing with my mental health, and during that period was when I seriously started to write this memoir."

Ms Murphy said a key section of the memoir focuses on dealing with childhood

trauma and the nature of how a profoundly distressing event can leave a significant impact.

"When I was 10, my sister was hit by a car and killed right in front of me, which had a profound impact on my family and the guilt and trauma of that event continued to affect me as I grew up," she said.

"I gave the memoir to some work colleagues to read, and many said they were in tears by page four, but I had to reassure them that it gets better."

Ms Murphy said there's also plenty of funny and relatable recollections touched on in the memoir.

"There's plenty of stories from the hard-partying university days, my travels overseas as a backpacker, and towards the end, it finishes with a strong message of hope," she said.

"Some days, we focus on the good bits; other days, the bad; but at the end of the day, the core message of *Scrapbooks and Broken Strings* is that life is very much a mixture of perception and how you choose to reflect on past experiences."

Ms Murphy hopes the



MEMOIR: Kelso High teacher Jude Murphy has launched her debut book, *Scrapbooks and Broken Strings*.

memoir will especially strike a chord with women who too have suffered from postnatal depression, a condition she feels warrants greater discussion and awareness.

"I was in a postnatal psychiatric ward when Sienna was a year old, and I've expressed this honestly and candidly in the memoir to help resonate with readers who may have had similar experiences," she said.

"It's something that's easy to feel ashamed of, but hopefully further discussion will encourage greater awareness books in the works."

Scrapbooks and Broken Strings is available at www.giminderrapress.com.au.

Ms Murphy has more books in the works.

Thursday 27th January 2022