

AAMI Country Rugby League
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A reminder to all Senior Rugby League Groups. Can you please send the following information for this year's Annual Report. DUE Monday 19th October 2009.

1. Photo – of Grand Final winning team IE: Action or Team Photo.
3. Awards – list of Group's award winners. IE: Grand Finals, Player of the Year, Top Point scorer.
4. Photo – Regional Representative Team photo from the Regional Championships
5. A wrap up of the year that was.

Please send all correspondence to
lauren@crlnsw.com.au



Development Officer of the Week

Congratulations to Development Officer Dean Whymark and the Riverina staff who have been running multiple Kids to Kangaroos clinics. The kids play a variety of Rugby League activities, and receive a boot bag with goodies for their participation.

2009 Player of the Year Night

The Country Rugby League Player of the Year Awards were held at the Sydney Cricket Ground on October 2nd 2009. Guests were treated to a rare occasion with drinks on the green of the SCG.

The dinner was a huge success with over 300 people attending including the following distinguished guests: - The Hon. Kevin and Frances Greene (Minister for Gaming and Racing and Minister for Sport and Recreation), Mr Barry O'Farrell (Leader of the Opposition) and his wife Rosemary, Mr George (Shadow Minister for Hospitality and Tourism) and Vassy Souris, NSW CEO Mr Geoff Carr and his wife Penny, Mr Colin Love Chairman of the Australian Rugby League, CRL Chairman Mr Jock and Bev Colley, NRL CEO Mr David and Kathy Gallop, Executive Manager of AAMI NSW Mr Andy and Tracy Gibson, Ms Liz O'Neill from the Fosters Group. The night was also attended by ARL and NSW board members and representatives from various NRL clubs.

The honours on the night went to Grant Wooden from Wagga Kangaroos who has won the AAMI Country Rugby League Player of the Year for the second consecutively year. Grant is only the second person in the history of the award to have won it twice along with Allan Thompson from Newcastle in 1967/68. This is truly a great achievement especially in the modern game. Grant was congratulated by many of his Country Firsts team mates who were in attendance.

The Country Origin Player of the Year went to St George Illawarra's Ben Creagh who had an outstanding season and went on to debut in this year's State of Origin series. Ben is a popular member of the Country Origin and spoke of how he was humbled to receive the award.



Barwon Darling Gala Days

The Barwon Darling Junior Rugby League ran six non competitive Gala Days and a finals day through out the year. The teams that attended the gala days on a regular basis were Brewarrina, Bourke and Collarenebri. The age groups competing on the days were under 8's, 10's, 12's 14's and 17's with Brewarrina having the highest amount of registered players. The games were played in a 7 aside format to allow all teams to play with struggling numbers. Although 7 weeks of footy doesn't seem too much in a year, these days are played in conjunction with school gala days that are ran in each throughout the year as well.

This year has been a struggle in this area especially with the lack of volunteers but with Barwon Darling sports committee forming, next year promises to be a bigger and better year for Rugby League in this area.



Back to the Bush

The Country Rugby League are initiating a recruitment site on our website (www.crlnsw.com.au) to offer Country clubs the opportunity to advertising for players and coaches to your club. This site will have links to all NRL Clubs and will provide an opportunity for players to seek positions in the Country. Clubs interested in recruiting players should supply to the CRL their: -

- * Name (Contact Details)
- * Town
- * Team Colours
- * What your club can offer
- * An overview of your town
- * What the town can offer (types of employment, accommodation, schools etc)

If you would like to take part at this early stage please contact the CRL office or email Jessica at Jessica@crlnsw.com.au