



Bush Telegraph

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On behalf of everyone at Country Rugby League we would like to wish you a very Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year. May you have a safe and happy holiday. Look forward to working with you all again in 2010.

The CRL office will be closed from Thursday 17th December and will re-open on Monday 11th January 2010.



Development Officer of the Year

CONGRATULATIONS must go to Mid North Coast Development Officer Jay Sakaio for his continued support and dedication to the Bush Telegraph. Jay is by far the biggest supporter and it is much appreciated. The work he does for the Mid North Coast area does not go unnoticed. Well Done Jay!

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Port Macquarie to host 2010 Country V City

The Country Rugby League is pleased to announce that the 2010 Country V City Origin game will be taken to Port Macquarie on the NSW Mid North Coast. After a successful week in camp in Orange in 2009 the CRL is looking forward to bringing a host of NRL Talent to Regional Stadium on Friday May 7th 2010. Tickets will be available closer to the date.

Courtesy of Port Macquarie Newspaper November 23, 2010

Australia Rugby League chief executive Geoff Carr told the Port News on Friday the representative game would be played at the Port Macquarie Regional Stadium on May 7.

"Regional Australia is very important to our game and Port Macquarie has such a strong tradition as a heartland of rugby league," Mr Carr said.

"With that in mind we are happy to be playing the representative game here, where there is also such great facilities.

"It will be played on the same night as the Australia-New Zealand test in Melbourne so although there may be half a dozen NSW players down there, there will still be strong line ups of players vying for Origin jerseys."

Mr Carr said the City-Country game was a vital part in the development of the next wave of top-flight players.

"For many, going straight from club league to Origin is too much," he said.

The ARL boss said fans from regional areas still held a place in their heart for the game.

"The players in the country are still identified by where they played their original league," Mr Carr said. "Like with Danny Buderus being from Taree."

Canaries' coaching job comes to a Head

BY MIKE GANDON, Illawarra Mercury News

Dapto has signed former Canaries junior Mathew Head as captain-coach for the 2010 Illawarra Carlton League season. Head, 27, who played for St George Illawarra and Wests Tigers in the NRL and had a stint with Hull in the English Super League, also spent some time in 2009 with the Shellharbour Dragons in the NSW Cup competition. Dapto missed out on playing in the finals series this year. Now the clever, experienced halfback has agreed to coach and captain the club where he played his junior football. An inspirational leader and wonderful player with the Illawarra Steelers junior representative teams, Head has had to fight back from career-threatening injuries after joining the Dragons' senior ranks. Now he is looking forward to being involved with Dapto again.

"I'm pretty excited. Being a junior at the club, I always wanted to come back and play here after my NRL career was finished," Head said.

"I had some other places I could've went to keep that going but I thought I'd had my time in the sun and I enjoyed my time there and I wanted to come back and put something back into Carlton League, especially Dapto."

Head sees his future as a coach and is grateful that Dapto has given him the chance to start that part of his football career.

Head watched a few Dapto games last season when he thought coaching could be an option for him after Dean Callaway stepped down as Canaries coach at the end of season 2009.

He said the Canaries had a good nucleus of experience within their ranks, including player of the year Chris Leikvoll, Jason Kent and Matt Rieck.

"The club's definitely got some good players and there's some good juniors coming up," he said. Head hopes to bring some experienced players to the club to shore up some positions.

Dapto secretary Bryan Milthorpe said the club always prided itself on its juniors.

"For a player of Mat's calibre to come back and be captain-coach of the club, we're really excited," Milthorpe said.

