



Bush Telegraph

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Any CRL clubs interested in playing against the Canterbury Bankstown Bulldogs U19 Development Squad on either a bye or wash out weekend, please contact Bulldogs Recruitment and Development Manager Peter Mulholland on 0419 981 992 to discuss further details.



In 2010 the AAMI CRL Player of the Week and Club of the Week Competition will once again deliver important support for the game of rugby league throughout country NSW.

To nominate a young star from today's games, or any other player taking part in the Country Rugby League - Simply log onto www.CRLNSW.com.au and tell us about a special player that deserves recognition for their contribution to their Club.

At the end of each week of the CRL season, a player deemed most deserving will receive a \$250 Harvey Norman gift voucher and furthermore, a \$1,000 grant for their Club – both courtesy of those big supporters of the CRL and the CRL Under 18s Regional Championships, AAMI. Imagine what your local club could do with \$1000!

The weekly winner of the AAMI CRL Player and Club of the Week competition is announced on the Continuous Call Team on 2GB each week, so make sure you log on to www.CRLNSW.com.au and get your entries in!

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Vale CRL Patron Jim Fawkner

Jim Fawkner devoted much of his life to Country Rugby League and earned a host of honours for his service to the sport he loved– four life memberships and the honour of being granted patron of the CRL. In recent years, the Jim Fawkner Cup, a weekly challenge cup, was contested in Group 11. Group 11 decided on the move to replace the Johnny Walker Challenge Cup which had disappeared without trace. Jim considered it a huge honour. Jim relocated to Parkes in 1965 when he was a representative with Caltex. As Caltex sponsored the Country Rugby League it did not take long for him to get involved with the Parkes Rugby League Club.

He refereed in Group 11 for a couple of seasons, and eventually finished up in administration. In 1972, Jim was elected as secretary of Group 11 closely followed by the appointment of Western Division as well. The Western Division secretary was also automatically on the Management Committee of CRL, so Jim duly joined. A position of Assistant Secretary of CRL was created and Jim was appointed, promoting a move to Sydney so he could take it up. He remained for 10 years, but Jean (Jim's late wife) suffered from asthma so they returned to Parkes. Jim remained with the CRL, on the way establishing a record 18 years on the Referee's Appointment Board (overseeing for all CRL sanctioned rep games).

He was also manager of three Country representative sides. After returning to Parkes, Jim continued his administrative role, being elected president of Group 11 and then being asked to take on the role of president of Western Division. Jim was Life Member and Patron of Group 11 Referee's Association, Group 11 Rugby League and CRL. Jim also had a great love of cricket, and in his earlier years in Parkes was president of the Parkes Cricket Association and first class umpire. His crowning glories were officiating in the Country V City clash at the Sydney Cricket ground in 1972 and in the England V Western NSW game held in Parkes in 1972.

CRL AAMI Under 18 Regional Championships

Some of New South Wales' finest junior Rugby League talent will converge on Muswellbrook this weekend to contest the CRL AAMI Country Under 18 Championships. Top flight talent from regional areas around the state will compete for the right to play for the Tom Nelson Shield in Port Macquarie on May 7th. This final will be played as a curtain raiser to the 2010 AAMI Country Vs City match. Country Rugby League Chief Executive Officer, Mr Terry Quinn, looks forward to these Championships every year and the high standard of play that they bring.

"Year after year these kids are getting better and better which continually raises bar for future tournaments," Mr Quinn said.

"I'm especially excited by the fact that our finalists will be presented with the opportunity to play in front of a packed stadium prior to the 2010 AAMI Country Vs City clash in Port Macquarie. "It will be a real buzz for these kids to play in front of family and friends in a stadium that will potentially be holding upwards of 10'000 passionate Rugby League supporters."

The Tom Nelson Shield is named after the legendary Coach and Administrator of the same name that has served the Country Rugby League as a member with such high distinction over several decades.

What: - CRL AAMI Country Under 18 Championships

When: - Saturday 17th April and Sunday 18th April

Who: - Regional Area's from across NSW

Venue: - Olympic Park, Muswellbrook

A Civic Reception will be held at the Muswellbrook Workers Club on Friday 16th April with the Mayor of Muswellbrook Mr Martin Rush officially welcoming the AAMI Under 18 Regional Championships.

Below are photos from last year's Civic reception and the Championships in Parkes.

