



Country Rugby League
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2010 Holiday Inn Volunteer Of The Year Program

This year's Holiday Inn Volunteer of the Year Program is under way. You can now nominate ALL the hard working volunteers within your club. Last years CRL Volunteer of the Year Darryl Kelly from Group 9 was nominated by the Group and went on to win the One Community's National Volunteer of the Year Award and prize money.

Visit www.crlnsw.com.au for an information pack and how to nominate someone from your club.

Nominations are open to all. For further information please contact the CRL office.

Cessnock to Host Tier 1 Senior Championships this weekend

Cessnock Sportsground will be the place to be this Saturday afternoon when they host the AAMI Country Championships Final between Newcastle and Illawarra.

The Rebels will finally get their chance to avenge recent defeats against their Steel City counterparts on home soil, with Cessnock Sportsground being a ground that holds some fond memories for the home team.

The last time Illawarra tasted defeat in a Country Championship match was against Newcastle and it was at this very venue in 2006. That was also the last time the Newcastle Rebels won the AAMI title and they'll be hoping to conjure up that winning feeling again this weekend with the winner not only taking the title of the Country's best but also the opportunity to play Queensland's best before Origin II in Queensland next month.

Newcastle have named a 19 man squad and are expected to trim that back to 18 after a training session on Monday evening. Northern Blues halfback Dane Queenan was an eleventh hour exclusion from the Rebels win over the Central Hunter Power at No 1 Sportsground a fortnight ago but is expected to fit for this weekend's final. He was replaced by Wyong's Matt Sharp who did nothing but impress coaching staff with his debut performance for Newcastle and would have been giving the selectors plenty of sleepless nights as they attempt to come up with the winning formula for this weekend. The Pickers' Vern Moana Mason was also ruled out of the No 1 Sportsground clash through injury but is expected to pass a fitness test on his injured knee and will be pushing for inclusion in the final squad. Group 19 will take on Group 11 in the Northern Zone semi final of the Tier 2 championships as a prelude to the main game the with both teams coming through their earlier matches in style. The winner of this match with progress to the final of the Tier 2 Championship to be held on June 26.

The Group 19 v Group 11 action will kick off at Midday with the AAMI Country Championship Final between Newcastle and Illawarra scheduled to get underway at 1.45pm.

Results from Tier 2 Senior Championships in Pambula

On Saturday, 29th May the Southern pool of the Country Championships was played at Pambula with the Riverina area returning positive results. Both Group 9 and Group 20 teams had resounding wins with Group 20 finishing on top of the pool. Unfortunately Sunday's round was cancelled due to the violent weather battering the South Coast and the southern pool quarter finals have been rescheduled for Saturday, 12th June at West Wyalong. Full list of results are available at www.crlnsw.com.au The following is the revised schedule;

Saturday 5th June, 2010 at Cessnock

12:00 Group 11 v. Group 19 (Tier 2 semi final)

1:45 Newcastle v. Illawarra (Tier 1 Final)

Saturday 12th June, 2010 at West Wyalong

12:00 Group 16 v. Group 20 (Tier 2 Quarter final)

1:45 Group 9 v. Group 10 (Tier 2 Quarter final)

Saturday 19th June Tier 2 Semi Final

Saturday 26th June Tier 2 Final

Girls Just Want to Have Fun!!!!

On Friday 21st May ARLD and CRL staff ran an a skills and game sense day at Lismore. This day was a joint venture with the Department of. Sport and Rec. and many thanks to Sharon Anderson for her outstanding efforts in coordinating the day. We had over a hundred primary age students and the day consisted of a 4 way rotation. The focus was on having fun, participation and team work. All five schools were very positive and the day was a great result for girls in league. The Jet Star Gold Coast Titans attended and were instrumental in projecting our fun, participation concept. Darren Robb and Jordan Rankin were heavily involved and the girls and teachers certainly enjoyed their care free attitude. On Saturday 22nd ARLD together with Group One JRL hosted our first girls tackle game at MacLean. The South Grafton Rebels and Clarence Coast Magpies met at Wherirtt Park, MacLean. A good crowd gathered to witness a game of very high standard. Some basic concepts will be the focus of future training sessions but high standards of ability to catch, pass, tackle, kick the ball and work as a team had the spectators applauding and cheering as the girls certainly entertained everyone in attendance. The game was played in very good spirit and final score of 28 - 20, had little impact on the day in comparison to the enormity of the event and a return match was organized while still on the field. Many thanks to Kathleen Hinton, South Grafton and Tim Ryan, MacLean for their efforts especially Kathleen who has been working on this event for some months now. Hope to have future reports as this aspect of Rugby League will certainly grow as word of this game spreads through out the northern rivers.

