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Celebrating Safely at End of Season Events

As the football season comes to an end, clubs are encouraged to be aware of their obligation when it comes to mad Mondays, end of season trips away and presentation award nights.

History shows that these activities whether sanctioned or not by the club can result in binge drinking and inappropriate behaviour and attract negative attention for the club and the sport.

There have been several incidents involving sporting clubs and excessive drinking across the state in the last few years. These include:

- arrests for drunk and disorderly behaviour
- reports of abusive and violent behaviour
- racial and sexual abuse
- accounts of vandalism and trashing of property
- drink driving incidents
- deaths resulting from alcohol poisoning or violence; and bad publicity including front page news

Best of luck with organising your functions responsibly.

Sam Follows Keast Legacy

The Daily Advertiser By Simon Brunsdon 30 August 2010

One talented young footballer is carrying on the legacy left by his father on the Group Nine competition. Fourteen-year-old Sam Keast was awarded the Rick Keast medal for best on ground after Saturday's under-14 grand final at Parramore Park. An air of emotional pleasure could be felt among the large crowd at the finals as young Sam took to the stage to accept the medal bearing his father's name. Kangaroos under 14 coach Troy Ryan said he felt honoured to be presenting Sam with the medal.

"This is a very special day for young Sam," Ryan said during the presentation.

"Rick was Sam's dad and I know he would have been so proud of Sam to be up here today (Saturday) being given the best-on-ground award.

"Sam has been a terrific player since he started playing and today he showed the tremendous skill he has.

"Congratulations Sam, you deserve it mate."

The 14-year-old was a standout for the entire game, making continuous breaks down the sideline and proving relentless in defence in centre for the Roos.

"This is the first year I've won best on ground," Sam said after the presentation. "The whole team played pretty good today so it was a team effort really."

Sam's father Rick was one of the greatest stalwarts of the Group Nine competition. Born and bred in Junee, Rick went on to play two seasons with South Sydney before bringing an end to his distinguished career by captain-coaching Brothers to its only Group Nine premiership. Keast passed away in July last year after a long battle with cancer. Sam captained Kangaroos to the grand final after a successful home-and-away season, and was able to lead his team to victory at Parramore Park on Saturday. During his nine-year playing career the up-and-coming talent has already begun to fill his father's shoes, having represented Group Nine twice as well as the Riverina.

"I'd love to play in the NRL one day," he revealed.

"Hopefully I can play for the Roosters in the centres."

Kangaroos fought hard against Turvey Park on Saturday to take out the premiership. Coach Ryan says he believes his team deserved to take home the trophy after a dominant year in the under 14 division.

New Season New Coach

With another successful season nearly at the end for the Greta Branxton Colts and only the reserve grade the reigning premiers remaining in the hunt for glory newly appointed 1st grade coach Chris Brennan wants to ensure that the club continues to grow stronger for season 2011. Brennan, the current Central Hunter Regional Development Manager will take over the reins from Matt Lantry as first Grade Coach for 2011 after Lantry decided to stand down at years' end.

And with the once again showing that they are a force to be reckoned with in Group 21 Brennan will be doing what he can to keep that winning formula.

"My aim is, like always, to make the semi-finals, which is the priority of any coach," Brennan said.

"But my immediate aim is to ensure that all the guys from this year turn up again next year, we have a lot of experience here and that important in helping to develop our kids. I have already spoken to the incumbent 1st grade head trainer, Luke Thomas the team manager and the reserve grade coach, they have all assured me that they will be backing up again".

"It will be a long summer, I cant wait until the footy season starts again, there is a lot of planning to be done and players to be resigned, but that's what the off season is for" Brennan said.

Group 21 administrator Steve Bailey said "it was important to secure the right person for the job, one who has similar values and visions that are already here".

"We wanted to appoint someone who can continue the great work Matt has done and junior development is high on Chris's agenda" Bailey said.

The reserve grade play the grand final on the 12th September.

