



## Girls Rugby League on the Central Coast



### Dubbo holds Country Women In League Function

To celebrate the role of Women in the Game, 120 Volunteers and Staff from all over NSW's Central West came together at the Lazy River Estate, Dubbo to enjoy a well earned night out and be congratulated for their hard work for the game in the area. The ladies were treated to a gorgeous evening, and were able to rub shoulders with Harvey Norman Managing Director and NRL Board Member Katie Page, NRL Director Community Relations, Trish Crews, Country Rugby League Chairman Jock Colley and his wife Bev, as well as special guests Hazem El Masri, Mario Fenech and Dubbo's own David Peachey. Radio 2DU's Geoff Mann MC'd the event, and opened the night with a poem he'd penned especially for the occasion, dedicated to the Mum's and families of young rugby league players everywhere.

Also in attendance was Margaret Gordon, who's dedication to Rugby League in Bourke with the Outback Challenge has given hundreds of kids in the area a chance to play the game they love.

With prizes, presents and plenty of pink – everyone who attended thoroughly enjoyed the event, and we thank the NRL and Harvey Norman for coming out to Dubbo. Special thanks also to Peter Clarke and Sue Egan, without whom the night could not have gone ahead.

Congratulations and Thanks to all Women involved in Country Rugby League. Your efforts do not go unnoticed!



The Central Coast Division Junior Rugby League has been successful in starting a girls only Rugby League Program for the 2010 season. It targets the U/14's & U/16's age groups who until now did not have the opportunity to play our game. The program has been keenly attended by a group of girls who love playing and training and they are enjoying the experience of being able to play a game where they have, in the past, been restricted to the sidelines. The commitment from the girls is outstanding both on the playing and the training field.

While in its infancy, the numbers are such that they play a smaller 7 a side game although nothing is lost on the ball skills and defence that our game commands. They play at various venues around the coast in conjunction with our normal Mini, Mod & International Leagues with teams including The Cougars, Brisbane Water Roulettes, Northlakes, Ladettes, Northern Thunder and the Eastern Breeze. The games are quite a spectacle and if you have the opportunity to watch a game or two please give them your full support. While this concept is just starting I am sure that it can become a competition in its own right and provide our girls the opportunity to continue playing after they can no longer play mixed Mod League after 12 years of age. We are always recruiting and the opportunity to register to play is far from over. For any details or queries please contact the Division office on 0425 367 005 or 0438 242 782 or email Chris Warwick on [c.warwick.76@gmail.com](mailto:c.warwick.76@gmail.com).

### Good Girl of the Month Awarded to Thirroul's Darlene Maher

To celebrate this week's Harvey Norman Women in League Round, Rugby League's One Community has broken with tradition and today named a 'Good Girl of the Month' for June. Mother of three Darlene Maher was today named One Community's Good Girl of the Month in recognition of her upcoming trek of the Kokoda Trail, to highlight the important role women play across the game and to raise funds for the Joanne MacKay Breast Cancer Foundation. Using Harvey Norman Women In League as inspiration, Maher, the secretary of the Thirroul Junior Rugby League Club and a member of the Dragons' Crystal Bears Women in League program, says she was inspired to raise awareness of the important role women play in Rugby League after attending last year's One Community Awards, which each year celebrate the off-field achievements of NRL and grass-roots heroes.

"I got thinking about what else we could do as part of the community," Darlene Maher said.

"I wanted to include some fundraising and raise awareness that we're part of a junior club, that we're footy mums, that we're women in league. "With the challenges that everyone involved with the Joanne MacKay Foundation face, we thought what's the biggest challenge we could set ourselves to highlight the amazing work they do and the resolve of the women and families they help. "Trekking Kokoda came to mind and it just snowballed from there."

With fellow Thirroul Juniors 'footy mum' Lisa Sciberras, the pair will undertake the trek from July 6 and will proudly wear Dragons Pink V Women in League jerseys to support their efforts to raise money for the Joanne MacKay Breast Cancer Foundation. "Darlene's mission reflects the passion women have for Rugby League and how their roles in the game support the community at many levels," NRL Director of Community Relations, Trish Crews, said.

"Each year, Harvey Norman Women in League thanks the 40,000 female volunteers, employees and officials at the heart of the game and Darlene is a great example of these women."

### Women in League Newsletter!!

Coming soon - The Heart Of The Game - Women In League's newsletter. Register and Receive!

<http://www.rloc.com.au/default.aspx?s=wil-heart-of-game>