

PROUDLY
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Leagues Clubs Australia Submission 2015

CATEGORY: # JOHN KNIPE AWARD
NOMINATION: WESTS ILLAWARRA

WESTS ILLAWARRA PROUD TO SUPPORT JUNIOR SPORT

Recognising encouragement of amateur sport by a club through the provision of facilities, coaching clinics, training programs, financial support and/or the contribution of club staff to assist sporting groups.

West's Illawarra has a proud record of supporting local sport, from our junior rugby league "nursery" which has produced 10 internationals from Bob Fulton to the Stewart brothers, Brett and Glenn, to the West's Illawarra Aquatic Club which produced the McKeon siblings, Emma and David. At the 2014 Commonwealth Games Emma won four gold medals and two bronze, while David won a silver medal.



And while we are proud of the successes of our stars, we equally value the opportunity to provide healthy exercise and team sports experiences to all children.

West's Illawarra supports 14 sports clubs, ranging from senior and junior rugby league, to netball, hockey, football, cricket, baseball and swimming.

Rugby league is our biggest junior participation sport with over 300 West's Red Devils juniors and close to 200 Corrimal Cougars Juniors.

In 2014 West's Illawarra once again supported the WAVE fm Footy Boot Camp - a school holiday activity that gives junior rugby league players the opportunity to be coached by some of the biggest names in the sport. This annual event is held at Unanderra Park, right across the road from the West's Illawarra, this year's event will be on Tuesday 22nd September, with the 'Big Marn' from the Footy Show making a special appearance.

The club sees enormous value in giving our local youngsters the opportunity to get out on the field, be healthy and train with some of their greatest heroes. West's Illawarra is very proud of the response from our two junior rugby league clubs to the Footy Boot Camp.

Former Rugby League stars who participated at this year's Footy Boot Camp:

- + Shaun Timmins
- + Brian Fletcher
- + Jason Ryles
- + Beau Ryan
- + Mario Fenech
- + Matt Cooper

Well over 6,000 children nominated for the 150 places available at the boot camp.

Further fostering and encouragement of sport was provided to Unanderra Public School in 2014. This is the second year that West's Illawarra has proudly supported the Recreational Sports Program; the program supports 250 children and their families as well as local businesses. This program allows Unanderra Public School to offer students and families an affordable subsidised way to participate in sport that is fun, inclusive of all, teaches skills, improves physical activity levels and social skills.

"Without West's Illawarra's sponsorship this extremely successful and popular program would not have been possible. The entire Unanderra Public School community are very grateful for the support that West's Illawarra has provided and we are looking forward to a continued partnership with the club in the future" said Matt Batley from Unanderra Public School.

Activities with the program include McKeon's Swim Centre, Strikezone Bowling, Albion Park, Oak Flats Roller Skating Ring, Dapto Squash Centre, SoccerMan and Zumba.

DOLLAR CONTRIBUTION:

West's Illawarra contributed just under \$600,000 in the last year for amateur and junior sport in our region.

Supporting Documentation:

Testimonials from Matt Batley and some of the students who participated.



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