

# AFL Darling Downs Lowdown

## AFL Darling Downs JUNIORS

Welcome to the first edition of the Darling Downs Lowdown. Each fortnight, this newsletter will endeavour to keep the footballing public up to date with what is happening in the league. It will have a focus on the 11 clubs in the league and will provide many opportunities to show how the experience for all players, parents and spectators can be improved.

Please send through any articles or information you wish to publish to [cdavis@aflq.com.au](mailto:cdavis@aflq.com.au).

Well done to all clubs which got their applications in for the last round of Active Inclusion Grants. We should find out whether you were successful in the next couple of months. Souths have applied for a grant on behalf of AFL Queensland which will hopefully subsidise the costs of Level 1 Coaches & Sports Trainers courses for all clubs across the Darling Downs.

Many clubs will have their AGM's over the next couple of months. If any Executive positions change, which they most likely will, the Office of Fair Trading must be notified **within one month** or penalties can apply.

A new committee often brings in a whole new set of ideas. This may be a fantastic time to begin your Strategic Planning Workshop and put some of these ideas onto paper. This process is facilitated by AFLDD staff, making it very simple for your members and will help guide your club into the future.

## Club of the Year

*Coming in 2012  
Stay tuned for  
more information*

## CLUB NEWS

Got something that is happening at your club? Prefer to write your own story?  
Email [cdavis@aflq.com.au](mailto:cdavis@aflq.com.au) by Monday 28<sup>th</sup>. Feel free to include a photo.



The Pittsworth/Millmerran Power is making a concerted push to include a senior side in 2012 with the intention of playing in the proposed Reserves competition. To get involved in something new, get in contact with Graeme Carnahan on 0402 209 306.

The club was also the first to hold their AGM on October 27th, with many committee members stepping down from their roles. **Bruce Smith** stepped up to the role of President after previously being their Grants Coordinator. Outgoing President **Sharyn Carnahan** has ensured some continuity in the committee, taking on the role of Secretary.

**SENIOR AGM:** Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> November @ 11am. City Bowls Club, Victoria St

**JUNIOR AGM:** Monday 21<sup>st</sup> November @ 7pm. Harristown Park, cnr Talbot St & Croxley St,

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AFL 9's, the brand new social, non-contact form of football has kicked off on the Downs. Playing at UQ Gatton, the brand new mixed gender competition began last Thursday. For further information contact **Matt Struthers** on 0403 014 693.



Goondiwindi is working hard to get their hands on a piece of the funding pie, applying for the Active Inclusion grant as well as beginning plans to improve their facilities with a Jupiters grant in the coming months.

AFL 9's is coming to Toowoomba in December. For more information contact Gordon Baker on 0419 184 577.

The club is also looking to make a focus of getting in to the local schools, running localised Under 8 & 10 teams in 2012.



Gold Park has installed brand new lights which will be up to the standards to play night time AFLDD matches on. Work is about to begin on redevelopments on the bottom oval change rooms also thanks to funding from the State Government.

Coolaroo are also actively applying for smaller grants to assist with the general running costs of the club, applying for an Active Inclusion grant last month, and has prepared their application for the Positive or It's Pointless Equipment grant.



Warwick, in conjunction with Queensland Health applied to the State Government to run a healthy eating and lifestyle program, through the recent Active Inclusion grant.

After many delays, the Redbacks are looking likely to move from Slade Park for the 2012 season, to a new ground located at Queen's Park.



Souths are the first club to begin official training for the 2012 season with a meet-and-greet and training session last week. To have a run with the club contact senior coach **Shaun Reardon** on 0427 696 013.



University have a new President for the 2012 season after their AGM last weekend which had a fantastic representation from members and senior players alike. Cougars Volunteer of the Year, **Kelli Bolton** has stepped up to the role, with many new faces in other committee positions.

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Why change something which is clearly working? The Toowoomba Tigers held their AGM on Sunday November 13<sup>th</sup>, re-electing essentially the same committee. **John "Box" Wilson** remains as President, with **Ruth Wilson** continuing in her role of Secretary.



Highfields held their AGM on Saturday October 12<sup>th</sup>, re-electing **Steven Paull** as President for the coming season. Despite not yet appointing a senior coach, many players are committed to making finals in 2012 and have already started training off their own back with an official first session beginning next Wednesday.

## GRANTS UPDATE

### Positive or It's Pointless Equipment Program:

*Up to \$2 000 dependent on junior participation numbers. **Closes:** December 31, 2011*

The easiest money your club can ever get its hands on. There is \$500 or \$1000 on offer to spend on equipment for your club, depending on the number of junior players at your club. You only have to complete a behaviour management plan (then action it) and one has been filled out and sent to your club.

### Building Rural Communities Fund:

*Up to \$15 000 for clubs outside of Toowoomba. **Closes:** November 23, 2011*

Funding is available for any project which links the club in with the community, including planning for facility upgrades. These small scale events can be a great way to bring new people into your club.

### Jupiters Casino Community Benefit Fund:

*Up to \$150 000. Funded quarterly. **Next round closes:** November 30, 2011*

A grant for numerous projects, including facility upgrades, training education or pilot projects.

### Gambling Community Benefit Fund:

*Up to \$35 000. Funded quarterly. **Next round closes:** November 30, 2011*

A grant to help a club provide community services or activities that benefit the community; including participation events, facility upgrades or equipment purchases, amongst others.

### Young Athlete Assistance Program:

*Up to \$200. Always open. **Must apply within 6 months of the competition occurring.***

Provides financial assistance for kids who have attended a state or national championship, either as a player or an umpire. Children must live at least 200km from where the championships were held.



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Preseason has kicked off for all juniors on the Darling Downs with over 140 kids from Under 12's through to Under 18's participating in the AFLQ run program. The program is tailored to the individual ages of the kids, with the young ones being introduced to training to improve, rather than just playing the game. The older kids however are being developed with the intention of getting as many kids selected in state representative squads in 2012.

Specialist coaches will take a session with the kids with personal trainers from **Zenon Fitness** already whipping the boys into shape and a session with a sprint coach to follow this week. The kids are also being introduced to correct training practice and learning how to manage their bodies. Crucially, the kids are developing social links with many players in the other clubs which will help integrate them into the AFL community on the Downs.

## Calendar

**Nov 19<sup>th</sup>:** AFLDD Friends of Footy Function

**Nov 20<sup>th</sup>:** Senior League AGM

**Nov 21<sup>st</sup>:** Junior League AGM

**Nov 25<sup>th</sup>:** Toowoomba AFL 9's begins

**Dec 21<sup>st</sup>:** AFLDD Office Closes

**Jan 9<sup>th</sup>, 2012:** AFLDD Office Reopens

**Mar 24<sup>th</sup>, 2012:** AFLDD Round 1



The AFL Quality Club Program has been developed and designed for clubs to evaluate their club and strive for accreditation.

The Quality Club Program has three different levels of accreditation: **Bronze**, **Silver** and **Gold**.

Receiving this accreditation will allow your club to access logos and a certificate of acknowledgement. These will be particularly beneficial when applying for grants as well as promoting your club to new members. Furthermore, AFL Darling Downs is the only region in the state to recognise the award with a commemorative plaque.

Bronze level assessment is the first step and only requires you to fill out an online assessment form which will take no longer than half an hour. To begin your assessment, just head [here](#).

Congratulations to the following clubs who have submitted the assessment form for **BRONZE** accreditation and are completing their evidence checks:

- *Toowoomba East Stingers*
- *South Toowoomba Bombers*
- *Highfields Lions*

**Who will be the first club on the Downs to be officially recognised as a Quality Club?**

Who will be the first to be recognised as a Silver or Gold level club?