



AFL Darling Downs Lowdown

Welcome to the second edition of the Darling Downs Lowdown. As it turns out, no-one has a better suggestion for the title and the lowdown does have its own natural catchline, so the name will stay.

All initial indicators have been positive and the Darling Downs Lowdown will return in 2012 as a fantastic source of information for your club.

AFL Darling Downs is continuing to prosper and a number of new projects will come about in 2012. A Reserves competition will return for the first time since 2001, albeit in a modified format. Matches will be played with a minimum of 12 players a side. If a club cannot field their own side they are encouraged to seek out a partnership with another club to form a merged team. Clubs need to nominate their intention to play by the first committee meeting in January.

A detailed facility upgrade strategy will be developed for all clubs and the leagues need to draft up a new strategic plan. AFL 9's will begin and a brand new schools competition, the Darling Downs Cup will launch. Auskick will hit a number of new venues and there is a possibility of an Under 14 Crows team playing in Brisbane. These are just a few of the projects which will be rolled out, along with everything which has been done this year.

From everyone at AFL Darling Downs, we wish you a Merry Christmas and a safe and happy New Year!

Club of the Year

Launching VERY early 2012

2000 points are up for grabs. How many can you get?

The Senior League held their AGM on Sunday November 21st. The event was a very civilised affair which achieved some great discussion and some fantastic outcomes. There was just one nomination for each executive position, with the 2011 Executive continuing in their roles. **Heather Green** was also awarded life membership for her continued involvement not only to the league but to Coolaroo and University also.

The Junior League AGM was a different affair, with a couple of clubs not present and discussions focussing around the finances of clubs and the league. **Graeme Carnahan** was elected unopposed to continue the President role. **Wendy Grundon** was elected to the Vice President role and **Sharyn Carnahan** continues as Registrar. After no nominations were forthcoming on the night, the roles of *Secretary* and *Treasurer* remain unfilled until the January meeting. If you can assist in these roles, please get in contact with **Graeme Carnahan** as soon as possible. Many thanks must go to **Shaun Reardon, Steven Paull, Rod Mengel & Janine Smith** for the involvement with the junior league in 2011 and the years previous.



PENDING



CLUB NEWS

Got something that is happening at your club? Prefer to write your own story?

Email cdavis@aflq.com.au by Monday December 12th. Feel free to include a photo.



Coolaroo held their AGM on November 20th where a number of people took on new volunteer roles. **Larry Heuston** remained on as the President with **Jon Weidman & Charlie Aston** assisting him in the Vice President role.

The club has also signed ex-University player **Nick Barker** as the senior coach for 2012.

Calendar

Dec 17th: AFLDD Office Closes

Jan 9th: AFLDD Office Reopens

Feb 3rd: AFL 9's Toowoomba Begins

Feb 17-19: AFL National Coaching Conference, Sydney

Feb 25th & Mar 3rd: Senior Preseason Cup

Mar 16: Season Launch

Mar 17/18: AFLDD Training Weekend, including Level 1 Coaching

Mar 24th: AFLDD Round 1



St Marks Oval has excessively large 12 & 9 metre goalposts installed which can be spotted from the highway. Maybe this is the reason the club had over 30 people in attendance at their AGM, or maybe it is further proof what a grand final appearance can breed. Excited at the times ahead, the club appointed a number of new committee members, led by largely the same Executive.

Approval to build the club house has recently been granted, and without any unexpected delays, it is anticipated to be built by February. Highfields will be the first club to play for premiership points at the new ground when they travel to Warwick in Round 2.



Michael Steepe is Goondiwindi's new President, allowing **Paul Leahy** to step back to an advisory role as vice.

The club has also signed 2006 Holman Medallist **Steve Collett** as the senior coach for 2012. No doubt finding a way to instil some confidence and desire to achieve will be the key as the Hawks look to improve on their 2 wins in 2011.



Geoff Bolton has once again been appointed as the senior coach at University after taking them to two preliminary finals in two years.



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Dalby has opted for stability in their leadership with no change to the Executive Committee despite a couple of rumoured challenges.

The club has also started the process of formulating a strategic plan outlining a number of key focus areas for the future. A focus on their senior team, as well as some major facility upgrades are on the cards as the club looks to continue the success they have achieved in their junior sides over the past few years.



Toowoomba held two highly successful Come n Try's for AFL 9's during the past two weeks where over 40 people tried their hand at the new game. New and experienced players alike thoroughly enjoyed themselves as they battled to adapt to new challenges. Clubs, schools and various other social groups are encouraged to enter a team for the 8 week competition beginning on Friday February 3rd.

Teams must be mixed, with at least 3 females on the field at all times and all players must be at least 14 years of age to compete.

For further information, like [AFL 9's Toowoomba](#) on Facebook or get in touch with Clint Moloney (0467 581 696) or Gordon Baker (0419 184 577).



After receiving a lack of interest at their AGM, the Stingers have filled their 2012 Executive welcoming 4 new faces. **Col Dukes** has stepped up to fill the role of President, with AFLDD Junior Coach of the Year **Jeremy Sheldrick** filling the Vice-Presidential role.

It's only December, but the 2012 AFL Darling Downs draw has already been released! Book your holiday plans now as the only changes will potentially be clubs swapping home games.



Round 1 Preview:

GF Rematch: Toowoomba Tigers v Warwick Redbacks	@ Rockville Oval
Coolaroo v Goondiwindi Hawks	@ Gold Park
Highfields Lions v Dalby Swans	@ Kratzke Oval
Lockyer Valley Demons v South Toowoomba Bombers	@ Gatton Showgrounds
University Cougars v Pittsworth Power	@ Baker St Oval

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.

Medibank Community Grants Program:

Up to \$100 000. Closes: February 17th, 2012

A grant for programs which encourage healthy eating or community connectedness. NOTE: Applications must be backed by a Medibank employee. See the website if a link doesn't currently exist.

Jupiters Casino Community Benefit Fund:

Up to \$150 000. Funded quarterly. Next round closes: February 28, 2012

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: February 28, 2012

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.

Easternwell Community Grants:

Up to \$2 000. Closes: March 23, 2012

Funding is available to support activities or opportunities which will provide lasting community benefit.

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.

More grants and great fundraising tips can be found at [Fundraising Buddy](#).



PENDING



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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*
- *Pittsworth-Milmeran Power*
- *Warwick Redbacks*
- *Coolaroo*
- *Dalby Swans*

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?



Have you liked the new [Darling Downs AFL Queensland](#) Facebook page yet?

Stay up to date with all that is happening, as it happens.