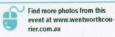
THE Sydney Roosters hosted local children last week at the annual community carnival in the Sydney Football Stadium precinct. Players from the first grade squad (including Mose Masoe, pictured) led a skills linic on Kippax Lakes training field, a tour of the SFS and Roosters head office and a discussion of the Eat Well, Play Well, Stay Well program, which is designed to encourage young people to make healthier ifestyle and dietary choices.

Photo: ALAN PLACE





# Craic meets Cazaly



Annie Rose Phillips and Lizzie Gavaghan from the Bondi Shamrocks AFI team

Photo: ALAN PLACE

**Rob Bates** 

AUSTRALIAN rules may still be considered a male-dominated sport but a team of Irish female footy players is gearing up to give the boys a run for their money to win the hearts and minds of Eastern Suburbs fans.

The Bondi Shamrocks are preparing for their second season in the Sydney Women's Australian Football League and as the only Aussie rules team dominated by Irish expatriates, the girls hope to build a passionate fan base in County Bondi and surrounds.

While working hard with preseason training, the Shamrocks are also striving to become the top team in an online competition.

The Taste For Sport competition

asks fans to visit a website and vote for their favourite team with no registration or personal details required.

The most popular team will then receive \$5000 sponsorship and footy gear for all players.

Bondi player Laura Flanagan said the league was a great way to make new friends when she moved here from the outskirts of Dublin and that she hoped more local women would get involved.

"I think what puts a lot of people off is they think 'Oh God, AFL, I wouldn't be able to do that, I'm too small or not strong enough', but it's not about that at all," Flanagan said.

One of the team's token Aussie players, Kate "Woody" Woodlands, agreed, adding that the game was perfect for women of all shapes and sizes.

UR-UIO

"There are so many different crucial positions, so you've got many different builds and fitness levels," Woody sad. "Your full forward might be a taller player, whereas midfielders like myself are a bit littler and speedier, then your wingers and half-backs are different again."

Woody said there were as many onfield fights in the women's league as in the men's.

"It can get pretty heated out there because it is quite competitive," she said. "Most of us are training four times a week, playing AFL on Saturdays and Gaelic Football on Sundays."

To cast your vote for the Bondi Shamrocks and support the team on and off field, visit www.tasteforsport. com.au. The first game of the 2010 season is expected on April 10.

#### **FISHING REPORT**

### Anglers making most of the wet conditions

Jack Scrine

DESPITE continued wet weather, fishing in Sydney is looking good.

Bream are happily feeding in Middle Harbour and Botany Bay and its tributaries, with anglers taking advantage of an aggressive streak in this usually tentative species.

Soft plastic fishing could well be difficult in North Harbour. Modern Fishing experienced a plague of small chinaman leatherjacket when it took to the water recently, which devoured gulps and snipped plenty of rigs. I've found popper fishing in dirty water often isn't as successful as other times. so if you want a luring option that won't be costing you a fortune in lost gear, continue using diving and lipless minnows and crankbaits if you come across the leatherjacket hordes. Big tailor are still in the mix as well, with metal lures and the aforementioned minnows accounting for plenty. Offshore, the fishing is firing. Acres

Offsnoes, the Island is filling. Actes of striped tuna and plenty of big bonito are devouring bait as far as the eye can see in some spots, and both of these species mean marilin are never far away. Even better news for the bluewater fanatics, it seems the mahi mare linally started showing up around the FADs.

Tricklings of reports in recent months have been depressing for those who love to chase the beautiful dolphin fish, but it looks like they've decided to make a late appearance. This seems to be a trend in offshore fishing this year, with the marlin taking their time to arrive, too.

Jack Scrine is deputy editor of Modern Fishing magazine. March issue out now.

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