



## Our juniors keep in touch with state's best

GEELONG reached three of six touch football Junior State Affiliates Cup finals at King Lloyd Reserve on Sunday, but couldn't manage a deciding win.

The Geelong Touch Football Association fielded sides in five of the six divisions, and was represented in the under-13 boys, under-13 mixed and under-17 girls finals on Sunday, but fell at each respective hurdle.

Two of those finals went the way of Altona-based Westside, who also beat Ballarat in the under-17 mixed final, while Harlequins (Chadstone) beat Geelong in the under-13 boys, 4-0.

In the other two finals, Elwood College took out the under-13 girls title and Natural Talent (Endeavour Hills) beat Westside in the under-17 boys.

Geelong hosted six other affiliates at the first Junior State Affiliates Cup, with

20 teams participating in the six grades. Geelong Touch Football Association president Rohan Greaves said the event proved a huge success.

"To be able to host the first ever junior touch day and give our kids a chance to run in a competition format was very well received," Greaves said.

"We had strong presence and community support from our volunteers and parents so to get to three finals was a pleasing result.

"Being able to see young boys and girls being coached by their mums or dads was awesome and shows why touch football is the ultimate family game."

The next major event is the School Championships at Westside (Altona) on March 28.

Pictures: GLENN FERGUSON







## Spotlight finds touchy subject

JEMMA RYAN

GEELONG'S only touch football club is campaigning for council and state government funding to secure floodlights that would aid the establishment of a winter competition.

Hundreds of men, women and children, aged between 10 and 70 years old, participate in the touch football competition at Newtown's King Lloyd Reserve over summer but don't have the option of playing all year round.

Geelong Touch Association president Rohan Greaves said the non-profit association had been applying for grants to upgrade facilities since 2013.

"The project is going to cost between \$250,000 and \$300,000 and the funding from the Government is capped at \$100,000," he said.

The association will contribute \$25,000 and apply for a significant donation from council but is also calling for private investors to help bridge the \$175,000 gap.

About one third of the 300 current members are female and about 50 are juniors. The players are split across three divisions to suit a range of abilities.

The reserve's covenanter, Newtown Hockey Club — which has 300 members — would also benefit from the upgrade and the Greater Geelong Galaxy girls representative soccer team, currently based in Torquay, has also expressed interest in using the grounds if lights are installed.

LIGHTING THE WAY: Leanne Houliston, Max Houliston, Danny Houliston and Rohan Greaves. Picture: PETER RISTEVSKI

# \$210m to fix rail woes

BODEY DITTLUFF

GEELONG'S rail cash injection will pave the way for trains to Torquay and the long-awaited doubling of the track to Warrnambool.

The State Government yesterday announced details of a \$210 million fix to local rail services as part of a \$1.45 billion allocation in tomorrow's budget.

The proposed funding, which includes \$110 million for a 'Surf Coast Rail Project' and \$100 million to give the Warrnambool line more services,

sparked a political free-for-all, with both major parties accusing one another of time-wasting and deception.

Minister for Public Transport Jacinta Allan revealed to the *Geelong Advertiser* that the funds would go towards:

**SUPPORT** land purchases towards Torquay;

**A SECOND** platform and pedestrian crossing at Warrnambool; and

**PRE-DUPLICATION** works between South Geelong and Warrnambool.

But exact details remain scarce despite planned \$3 mil-

lion State-funded business cases — one to "investigate transport options" at Armstrong Creek and the other relating to the track duplication, to which the Federal Government also committed \$1 million.

Public Transport Users Association Geelong convener Paul Westcott said the Torquay link was promising but the existing track was the "urgent priority", describing facilities as "overburdened and inadequate".

"It's really pleasing to see the commitment ... but we'd

like to see some more specifics about actual timing for the spending of this money rather than just the headline figure," he said.

A track duplication had been previously cited by V/Line boss James Pinder as having the potential to solve lingering issues on the Geelong line, with peak services packed and punctuality targets failing to be met.

Ms Allan remained coy on specific details and a release date surrounding the duplication business case, but said the work had been undertaken and the ball was now in the

Commonwealth's court.

"There are projects in here that are ready to roll and the longer that we spend on the argy-bargy, the longer it will take for these projects to deliver," she said.

The local funding is part of a \$1.45 billion Regional Rail Revival plan, which is set to be funded by the sale of the Port of Melbourne, via the Federal Government's Asset Recycling Initiative set up to give states money if they privatise assets.

But the Andrews government's pledge has been slammed by Liberals including

South Barwon MP Andrew Katos, Corangamite MP Sarah Henderson and shadow transport parliamentary secretary Simon Ramsay, with each calling on detailed rail plans to be produced.

"There's a business case that's supposed to have been prepared ... no one has seen that — you can't get a hold of it," Mr Katos said.

Ms Henderson also emphasised that a Torquay line "may be needed" in the future, but that the "absolute priority" was with a duplicated rail track through Geelong.

iinet

Ultrafast Cable with **Liimitless Data**

\*Offer not available in Hawthorn

Call us on 13 27 31 ■ [iinet.net.au/cable](http://iinet.net.au/cable)

Offer only available to new customers on 24 month contract and may be withdrawn at any time. Min charge includes \$59.99 standard installation fee + \$10 freight charge. Available in selected coverage areas.

V1 - GATE01201MA



50% off\* for the first 12 months

Usually \$79.99/mth

\$39.99/mth

Min 24 month charge \$1,509.75

HAWKS Principal Partner





TOUCH AND GO: Craig Cowley (right) and Te Moana Beeby from Team Havoc practise their passing.

Picture: GLENN FERGUSON

## Cry Havoc and let slip the gods of touch

ALISON APRHYS

FOR a city obsessed by AFL, touch football is kicking goals with nearly 300 players.

Geelong Touch Association president Rohan Greaves said the game, with a season running mid-October to late March, has been growing since 1996.

"It has developed to 25 teams and comprises a standard mixed competition," he

said. "People aged 12 and up can play."

Greaves said the sport's popularity has been encouraged by the enthusiasm of a few expat New Zealanders.

"It's also a low-impact sport so women feel comfortable getting involved."

He said Team Havoc, with a strong NZ membership, is unbeaten since they formed four years ago and again is sitting on top of the ladder.

Top Havoc player Craig

Cowley, 26, is from Hamilton on New Zealand's North Island. "We came up with the name Havoc for a laugh, thought it sounded cool and it's short enough on a team singlet," he said.

Cowley, who played representative touch football in NZ, said he loves getting out on the field in Geelong.

Touch football he said, is sensational as there is A, B and C grades and a level for every-

Fellow Havoc player Te Moma Beeby also played representative touch football in NZ.

The 20-year-old, who is studying criminology at Deakin University, has played since she was 14.

"I love the whole game as I like how it's fast and like setting up plays," she said.

"I used to play women's touch, but when you know how to read plays better than the guys it's really fun.

# Demons pin faith in Jones

JASON PHELAN

NATHAN Jones dreams of holding aloft the AFL premiership cup and he says he wouldn't have signed a long-term deal with Melbourne if he didn't believe the Demons were capable of achieving that lofty goal.

Jones, 26, signed a contract extension that will keep him at the club until the end of the 2019 season and while he admits he's not sure if the Demons can taste premiership success in that time frame, he's adamant they're heading in the right direction.

"I dream of it, I'm sure every player does, but there's a long road ahead and we've got to take some really significant steps in the interim," Jones said from AAMI Park yesterday.

"Whether that happens or not I'm not sure, but at least I know the club will eventually get back to where it should be."

Jones has endured a wretched run since Melbourne selected him 12th overall at the 2005 national draft, with the club reaching the finals just once and picking up two wooden spoons since he made his debut.

The Demons ended last season with a morale-sapping 10-game losing streak on their way to 17th spot on the ladder, but the skipper is bullish about his team's fortunes next year.

"Every team is aiming for finals and I honestly don't think that's too far out of reach for us," he said.

"I bleed for the footy club, I love the place, and I'm just glad I'm going to see out my career here," he said.

Jones will turn 31 in the final year of his new deal and he's hopeful the remarkable durability he's shown during his 179-game career continues, but agrees it was a big show of loyalty by the club to sign him for that long. **AAP**

FOR ALL YOUR STEEL NEEDS

|                              |                             |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| PIPE & RHS                   | MERCHANT BAR                |
| DOWNGRADE PIPE & RHS & PLATE | STRUCTURAL STEEL            |
| FENCING PRODUCTS             | ROOFING & BUILDING PRODUCTS |
| CATTLE HANDLING EQUIPMENT    | GRIDMESH/WALKWAY MESH       |
| SHEEP HANDLING EQUIPMENT     | FENCING PRODUCTS            |
| FARM GATES                   | GALVANISED SHEETING         |
| RETAINING WALLS              | STEEL PRODUCTS              |
| WIRE                         | PLATE                       |
| ALUMINIUM                    | SHEET & COIL                |
| REINFORCING MESH & PRODUCTS  | GALVANISED LINTELS          |

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC - CASH & ACCOUNT CUTTING & DELIVERY SERVICE AVAILABLE

5247 4100

51 Cowie Street, Nth Geelong

Open on Mon-Fri 7.30am-5pm, Saturday mornings between 8am and 12pm

www.metalcorpsteel.com.au



WINNERS: SWDLGA foursomes champions Vicki Carnie and Wendy Tottenham of Curlewis (left) and nett winners Karen Barker and Chris Jolley of Ocean Grove (right) at Portarlington on Monday.

## Curlewis pair team up to take out title

### Club hands over \$5500

CURLEWIS golfers Wendy Tottenham and Vicki Carnie have claimed the South-West District Ladies Golf Association foursomes championship.

The pair won the title at Portarlington on Monday with a score of 82, three shots clear of Joye Burton (Torquay) and Kath Dellar (East Geelong).

Overall nett winners were Chris Jolley and Karen Barker (Ocean Grove) with 90-21-69.

Best gross score in division two was posted by Anglesea pair Stefi Bates and Vida Brenner with 94, beating Portarlington's Yvonne Casey & Helen Powe (96)

FULL RESULTS

**FOURSOMES CHAMPIONS:** Wendy Tottenham and Vicki Carnie (Curlewis) 82

**OVERALL NETT:** Chris Jolley and Karen Barker (Ocean Grove) 90-21-69

**DIVISION 1 RUNNER-UP GROSS:** Joye Burton and Kath Dellar (Torq/East G) 85

**NETT:** Chris Cunningham and Sharon Powell (Portarlington) 89-18-71

**RUNNER-UP NETT:** Judy Scarrott and Pat Malloch (Curlewis) 85-13-72

**DIVISION 2 GROSS:** Stefi Bates and Vida Brenner (Anglesea) 94

**RUNNER-UP:** Yvonne Casey and Helen Powe (Portarlington) 96

**NETT RUNNER-UP:** Sally Griffin and Noeleen Chapman (Clifton Springs) 103-29.5-73.5

**NEAREST TO PINS**

**2nd** — Jill Barker and Jenny McKeon (Portarlington);

**5th** — Dawn Macdonald and Lois Marriott (B Heads/13th);

**17th** — Liz McConchie and Barb Hinton (Anglesea)

**Full results and pictures:** www.swdlga.asn.au

GEELONG Golf Club has chipped in to help Geelong's Anam Cara House.

The club's general manager, Paul Christie, yesterday handed over a \$5500 cheque to Anam Cara House representatives.

He also gave out some putting tips.

The club, which raised the money from the golf course preview program, is passionate about the work of Anam Cara House.

Anam Cara House aims to provide the community with a residential respite facility, supporting people who care for a loved one with a life-limiting illness at home.

The House offers free, 24-hour palliative care to people of all ages who have a chronic or terminal illness, provided by registered nurses, allied health professionals and trained volunteers.