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Sunshine Coast FC Club Newsletter

NPL is Firing on Sunny Coast

Sunshine Coast Fire are confident local players are recognising the benefits of the National Premier Leagues, proving the club is paving a path for football's future in the region including a possible A-League bid.

Previously the undisputed powerhouse club within the former Queensland State League competition, where the club won the final three senior grand finals, Fire continue to expand their focus in the NPL to provide development opportunities for even more players on the Sunshine Coast.

Club Chairman Noel Woodall, who founded Fire in 2007, said his club was thriving on the new challenges provided by the competition and that continued success will benefit the region's entire football community well into the future.

"The NPL is a culmination of what we've been working on for ten years (at Fire)," Woodall explained.

"The QSL team was about trying to create a credible league for the kids to aspire to and then go on from there."

"At the Fire, when I established the club, we basically adopted those (same) philosophies – our ambition is to include the kids and create the ultimate pathway for them." "I think within the first 12 months of the NPL operating on the Sunshine Coast, as opposed to the QSL and the Junior Premier League, I think we've got some pretty good results."

"If you look at the progression and number of kids coming out of the Fire, there has been a dramatic increase in the numbers going to state (teams) and QAS."

Since the NPL was introduced in Queensland for the 2013 season, Fire have added teams across age divisions in boys and girls competitions to further underpin the youth and senior programmes that operated under the QSL.

Fire Technical Director Kevin A'herne-Evans highlighted the club's record of promoting talent through the pathway following the club's junior NPL restructure.

"It's about pushing players on to the next level. We're here to ensure that the best players in the programme are in an environment to be identified, to continue to improve and go on to Queensland (representative teams) and the Roar pathway."

"We had three or four more girls go into the QAS system, so our girls programme is really strong as well."

"We want to build on that and it's a good reflection on our first year and want to build on that and get more players from the region identified and on the pathway."

He explained Fire's approach was about not only technique, but cultivating decision-making processes in junior players.

"We don't try to over-complicate it and confuse them and give them information overload. We have a guided discovery

approach so they are learning and making their own decisions within the game."

"The benefit you get from Fire is the support you get not just on the field but off the field."

"We're very mindful it is a youth development programme as well and very few go on to be professional footballers."

"The structure and support we give to the players and the parents, including our information evenings, is invaluable and it's a great place to grow up basically," A'herne-Evans summed up.

Woodall further explained that junior players and their parents were responding to Fire's holistic development ethos, saying that as many age groups saw near one hundred triallists earlier this year.

"The parents are picking it up very quickly and the kids, even the older ones, they are picking it up and they want to be part of it."

"So where it has been successful up here is at the direct point of entry, kids turning up at the trials. We've had very strong trials numbers in most age groups." continued pg 2...





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"The football community support is getting a serious amount of traction -it's captured the imagination of the players."

However, Woodall pointed out that increased support from the local football community can only serve to further strengthen the game for all clubs in the Sunshine Coast region.

"The number one thing is that people need to understand that there is a pathway and they need to support that pathway," Woodall said.

"If they don't support it there is no guarantee that the NPL or the club will remain. People need to actually get behind it and back what we're trying to achieve."

"The Sunshine Coast has a decent population of football players. If we have a successful NPL it will draw more people into our sport."

A'herne-Evans seconded his Chairman's sentiments, dismissing criticism that Fire's priorities were merely self-serving.

"Fire always produced good players in the QSL years in our youth squads. They are now going back to the local scene and they are improving the local scene,"

"We look to promote players up, but the ones that go back to the local league, because they have study or work commitments and can't commit to the senior set-up, they

often go back and improve the local football as well."

"We develop the whole region, but we also develop individuals, so it's a win-win situation for everybody on the coast."

Woodall also suggested that regions that genuinely embrace the NPL Queensland pathway will be well positioned for bigger and better things in future.

He was adamant that an A-League licence remains an objective should community support reach a critical mass.

"It's about developing a community base that is going to support the club from the day it gets its A-League license."

Woodall however said any thoughts of A-League participation remained more a long term ambition than short term target.

"If people ask me the question, I still say the same thing - we have a ten year plan and we are half way through it."

"We stick by that, but at the end of the day that plan is going to be impacted upon by how successful we are in getting community support behind what we are trying to achieve."

Words: Michael Flynn

2014 NPL Season Ladders

First team: Third on the ladder with 9 goals for, 11 against and 9 points.

Open Women's Team: Third on the ladder with 10 goals for, four against and 9 points.

Youth Men's Team: Sixth on the ladder with 20 goals for, 16 against and 9 points.

Under 18 Boys: Fourth on the ladder with 24 goals for, 15 against and 12 points.

Under 16 Boys: First on the ladder with 23 goals for, 5 against and 13 points.

Under 15 Girls: First on the ladder with 29 goals

for, 9 against and 18 points.

Under 15 Boys: Fifth on the ladder with 23 goals for, 13 against and 9 points.

Under 14 Boys: Fourth on the ladder with 27 goals for, 9 against and 13 points.

Under 13 Girls: First on the ladder with 46 goals for, 4 against and 15 points.

Under 13 Boys: Third on the ladder with 13 goals for, 8 against and 11 points.

Under 12 Boys: Fifth on the ladder with 35 goals for, 10 against and 9 points.



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Derby D-Day For NPL Clubs In Cup

Five NPL Queensland regional clubs are set for their first taste of competitive local derby football when the Football Queensland Cup fourth round starts this week.

FNQ FC Heat, South West Queensland Thunder, Sunshine Coast Fire, Northern Fury and Palm Beach Sharks are all set to make their debuts in the new knockout competition, which serves as Queensland's pathway to the FFA Cup.

Four clubs from the Sunshine State will qualify for the national draw later this year, and for NPL Queensland sides the qualifying path is looming large in their calculations in coming weeks.

The clubs will compete in against the qualifiers from their local member zones before the winners from neighbouring zones face-off in the next round.

The first cab off the rank is Palm Beach Sharks, who line-up against Gold Coast Premier League club Murwillumbah on Wednesday night at Mallawa Complex.

Sharks defeated Murwillumbah in pre-season, however head coach Grae Piddick expects a tougher contest in the heady atmosphere of a knockout derby.

"We had a fairly convincing win but it was very early in pre-season and a lot of their key players weren't playing," Piddick explained.

"Whenever a team plays against one that is in a higher competition they lift and Murwillumbah have some good players, so if they have a good go they can cause us a lot of trouble."

Piddick's Sharks side are currently undefeated in the NPL Queensland after five rounds and are hoping to maintain that form in the cutthroat cup format.

"The boys are pretty positive at the moment and we didn't play on the weekend (due to the weather), so they will be very fresh," he added.

"It will definitely be a different atmosphere compared to NPL. For the club it's probably the most important game of the season from their point of view, and they want to certain we win." The Cairns-based Heat will face a familiar adversary, lining up against former Queensland State League club Mareeba Bulls at Borzi Park in Mareeba on April 20.

Bulls feature former A-League player Wayne Shroj and last year's Heat captain Alex Plowman amongst their playing stocks in the battle for Far North bragging rights.

Heat head coach Peter Tokesi said he expected a tough battle against the side he previously guided in the QSL.

"I expect they are rubbing their hands with glee thinking they might get past us because our form in the early season has been pretty ordinary to

say the least," Tokesi conceded.

However, he stressed his charges were up for the challenge and explained the importance of the competition to regional clubs.

"I'm looking forward to the whole concept of the cup as everyone else is. Depending on who wins we get to play the winner from Townsville and then maybe go on to play against an A-League side (in the FFA Cup)."

"For the regions it's a big thing, with the FFA Cup coming in we get to see where we really are on the football map."

Sunshine Coast Fire will also renew acquaintances with former players and staff when they face-off against Caloundra FC on a date yet to be confirmed.

Caloundra are coached by former Fire QSL gaffer Richard Hudson and feature former Fire players Dale Hill, Rhys Roberts and Kayne Frew.

Fire head coach Kevin A'herne-Evans said he expected a tough match against the local club, who sit fifth in the Sunshine Coast top division.

"We can't wait to be honest. We've been talking about it since the news came out about the FFA Cup."

"Drawing Caloundra adds that extra spice with all some many ex-players who have been involved with the Fire set-up in some capacity amongst their ranks."

"We're not disillusioned about how hard it will be when we play against them because they have a lot of quality in there that we would love to have in our squad."

"I watched them play in their game against Noosa. That's how serious we are taking it for the technical staff to turn up there and analyse the game and identify their strengths and weaknesses."

South-West Queensland Thunder will face Willowburn on April 15 at Toowoomba's Clive Berghofer Stadium to determine which side can claim to be 'king of the mountain'.

Willowburn, who were founded in 1949, are oldest football club in Toowoomba's club competitions and currently hold the Premiership and President's Cup titles.

The match will serve as a chance for Thunder to return to winning ways following a lacklustre start to life in the National Premier Leagues, including a 6-0 last up result at home to Brisbane City.

Northern Fury are awaiting the result of the upcoming Round 3 match between North Queensland club sides Brothers & Warriors and Townsville Warriors ahead of their first cup fixture on April 16 at Townsville Sports Reserve.



Football Queensland Cup fixtures featuring NPL Queensland clubs:

Gold Coast Zone:

2nd April 2014

Palm Beach Sharks v

Murwillumbah FC

Mallawa Complex, Gold Coast

South-West Queensland Zone:

15th April 2014

South-West Queensland Thunder v

Willowburn FC

Clive Berghofer Stadium,

Toowoomba

North Queensland Zone:

16th April 2014

Northern Fury v (Winner of

Brothers & Warriors)

Townsville Sports Reserve,

Townsville

Far North Queensland Zone:

20th April 2014

Mareeba Bulls v FNQ FC Heat

at Borzi Park, Mareeba

Sunshine Coast Zone:

Date to be confirmed

Sunshine Coast Fire v Caloundra FC

Stockland Park Precinct, Sunshine

Coast.



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Spotlight on Ben Cahn Under 16 Boys Coach

How did you become involved in football? My first memory of football was the 1994 FA Cup final between Chelsea and Manchester United. My family were all Chelsea fans so I watched with them supporting Chelsea. I was drawn to the emotion and passion of the game. Despite Chelsea losing 4-0 I became a life long Chelsea fan and was desperate to go out in the street in kick a ball around. I played my first game at the start of the following season for a team called Warriors!

Which team is your favourite? Chelsea!

Who was your favourite player growing up? Gianfranco Zola (I cried at his retirement!), Dennis Wise and Claude Makalele.

And your favourite current player? Frank Lampard

Which teams have you played/coached for: I've played for Fulham FC, Banstead Athletic, Crystal Palace FC and Noosa Lions FC. I've coached Noosa Lions U17s, Sunshine Coast Football U13 JPL, Noosa Lions first team, Sunshine Coast FC U14 and U16.

What's been your best football moment? Well, my playing career hasn't been blessed with many winners medals so I am going to go with the day that I scored the winning goal in a 2-1 win against Reading. It was a tight game and one of my best mates was playing for Reading at the time. It was 1-1 with about 10 minutes to go and I beat a player (hard to believe now) and curled one in to the top corner (even harder to believe) and we held on to win the game 2-1. My coach Graham Baker was delighted and the players celebrated well.

And best coaching moment? Winning the Grand Final with Noosa Lions U17s. We had battled all year in the league to make the finals, losing players to the reserve team and for various other reasons. We lost to Woombye twice in the league but I knew with our full squad back and with a bit of momentum we could beat any body on our day. We scored early on and went on to win 5-2 and the performance was terrific. I was delighted for the boys who had worked so hard all season.

What do you enjoy about coaching? We are very lucky to as coaches to be in a position to influence the lives of so many young people. It is a great feeling to see young players improve as footballers and as people under our guidance. In terms of the football side of things, I love working on something in training and then seeing the players carry that preparation in to the games.

You are coaching the Under 16 Boys this year, how have they been shaping up? They have had a very solid start and have put in a lot of work. Our squad looks a lot more organised defensively and there are some terrific match winners in the team. I have been very impressed with some of the individuals who seem to be improving to new levels. The professionalism expected from the squad took a while to sink in but they are getting closer to the standard that I expect every week .





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Matt Needham



Wade Zammit

Jazlyn Salih



Percy Morris



Matt Needham



Taj Suffolk



Mitch Bridge



Sunshine Coast FC Club Newsletter



Ryan Delahunty takes on a Harimua Muda "A" player in the First Team game on March 23.

A word from the Technical Director

With Kevin A'herne-Evans

It has been a great couple of weeks for the Club. The world certainly looks brighter with three points in the bag, however this week has been great for the Club for a different reason; our success in women's football.

We have never hidden away from our ambition of having a W-League licence here on the Coast.

Those who saw our very young Open Women squad put on a clinic against Mitchelton last Sunday would have no doubt been impressed. There was a team goal scored by Kayla Moore that began deep in our defensive third and for me will be up there with goal of the year! Coach Dave Benstead has a philosophy that suits the promising players; he encourages them to pass the ball in all areas, to be creative and to try new things. This freedom will stand the players in good stead as they continue to develop. This week they take on powerhouse Palm Beach, which will be a real test for the team missing a couple of key players. As always they will work hard and face the match head-on.

We have also been notified that 15 players in our U13 and U15 girls teams have been selected to attend the QLD Metro Coffs Harbour Training held next week. With such a pool of talented players coming through it is a pleasure to be given the responsibility to work with them. They have impressive ability and a great work ethic. Further the girls who were not selected to trial know that with continued hard work and a good attitude that they can also be considered for selection to future QLD teams.

On another note, communication between all coaches on the coast has been improving, which is pleasing to see. There is a 'C' Licence course held at Maroochydore at the moment and we have been pleased to invite all the local coaches participating in the licence to observe and even conduct a few sessions at our Club. At this time 12 of the participants are in communication with us, this is an important step as the more coaches we have passing on the same message the better every Club on the Coast will be.



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Player Spotlight

Dean Polydoros plays as a centre midfielder in the Under 13 Boys squad and says he has always loved football. Having previously played for Olympic and Coolum FC, Dean lists his best football moment as scoring 7 goals for Coolum. Dean's favourite player is Lionel Messi and he supports Liverpool FC. He is most looking forward to playing against his former Club, Olympic FC, this season. Dean's biggest football influence is Jason Davidson because he is a great pro footballer. This year Dean's ambition is to be the best footballer he can be, and ultimately he wants to be the best footballer in the world!



Tyson Williams
Centre midfielder
Under 13 Boys

Player Spotlight

Hannah Taylor plays as a left-winger for the Under 13 Girls team and became involved in football when her brother started playing. Hannah has previously played for Coolum FC and her best football moment so far has been getting a football scholarship. Hannah's favourite club is Chelsea and her favourite player is Willian Borges Da Silva. Hannah is looking forward to taking on Brisbane City this season and hopes the Under 13 Girls can win games as a team. She lists her fellow team mates as her biggest football influences, because they make her want to push herself to improve. Hannah's ultimate aim is to one day play for the Matildas.

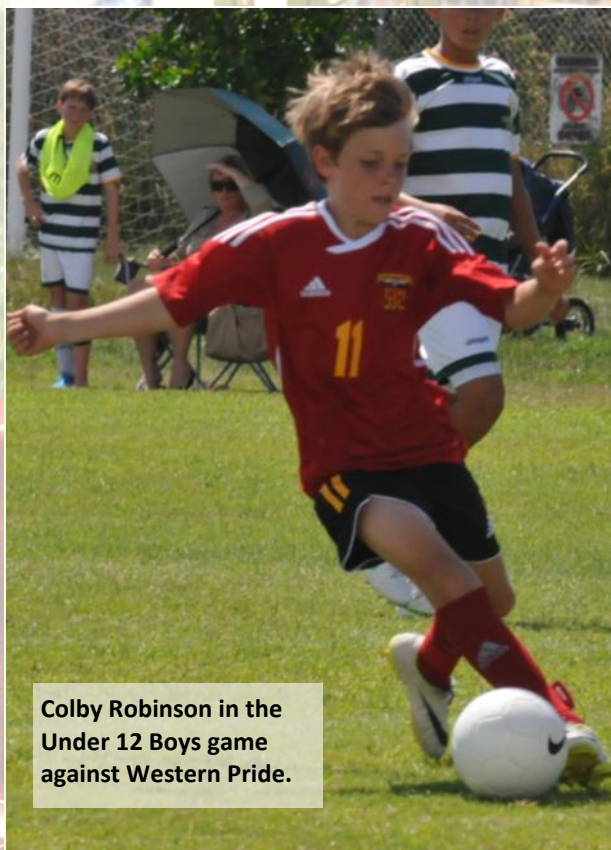


Hannah Taylor
Left winger
Under 13 Girls

How well do you know your NPL teams?

Each week there will be nine questions to test your knowledge of the Queensland NPL teams.

1. Which NPL team will take on Willowburn FC in the FFA Cup Round on April 15?
2. Which team had a senior squad in the 2013 NPL but now only has junior squads?
3. Which local Club will the Fire play in the upcoming FFA Cup Round?
4. Which team does current senior men's leading goal scorer Royce Brownlie play for?
5. Which A-League Club did Royce formerly play for?
6. Which three teams are currently tied on points for the top of the senior men's NPL ladder (as of Round 5)?
7. Which team's home ground is Townsville Sporting Complex?
8. Which senior men's team's colours are black shorts, black socks and black shirt with yellow patch on the back and front?
9. Which team does forward Reuben Way play for?



Colby Robinson in the Under 12 Boys game against Western Pride.



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International Women's Football Comes to Queensland

Final preparation for the Westfield Matildas' for the AFC Asian Women's Cup will hit full swing with 2 games scheduled against Brazil to be played in Brisbane next week.

The Matildas will face off against the 6th ranked Brazil on Sunday the 6th and Wednesday the 9th of April at Queensland Sport and Athletic Centre (ticket details below).

After finishing 7th at the Cyprus Women's Cup, the Matildas will be aiming to maintain some momentum ahead of their title defense at the AFC Women's Asian Cup, which is held in Vietnam in May.

There will be plenty of hometown advantage with 8 roar players named in the 23 player squad which was named on Monday.

Brazil is carrying form into the games, winning Bronze at the 2014 South American Games after narrowly being defeated by Argentina on penalties in the Semi Final. The last time these two teams clashed was at the 2011 Women's World cup where the Matildas went down 1 nil; of their previous 9 encounters the Matildas have won 3. Brazil's squad contains the 5 times consecutive FIFA

Women's Player of The Year Marta, who is tipped to play and Veteran midfielder Formiga who has the chance to receive her 100th cap on Wednesday.

Come along and see if Co-Captain Kathryn Gill can equal Cheryl Salisbury's record of most goals in A-Internationals for the Matildas.

To stay updated on information about the games keep an eye on <http://www.footballaustralia.com.au/news> and www.footballqueensland.com.au



Fire School Holiday Camp April 7 to 10

SCFC Fire will be hosting our School Holiday Camp next week from Monday, April 7 to Thursday, April 10.

For our NPL players this is a great opportunity to train with a variety of different NPL coaches, in particular Kevin A'herne-Evans and Paul Arnison who are our senior coaches and will be coaching many of the younger players in the future. It is also an opportunity for our younger players to challenge themselves through training and playing with older age-groups.

For our Elite Academy players it is a chance to work with the NPL coaches who could potentially be coaching these players when they reach NPL age. It is also an opportunity to train with our NPL players, in particular the U12 Boys and U13 Girls who are at the level expected of those wanting to be in the 2015 squads.

Information about the Camp is included below and registration is at the bottom of the page:

Venue: Stockland Park Western Fields (Milieu Place, Bokarina 4575).

When: Monday, April 7 to Thursday, April 10 in week one of the School Holidays from 9am-12pm each day.

Who: NPL, Academy and Community players aged between 6 and 16 years are all invited to attend. Players will be separated into groups based on age and skill level - players of all levels are welcome.

Coaches: Our NPL coaches Kevin Evans, Ben Cahn, Paul Arnison, Alex Barlow, Antony Hall (Goalkeeping coach), Samara Christmas and Jarrod Rodios will be taking the sessions.

Price:

Current NPL and Elite Academy players: \$95.00 inc GST.

Non Fire players: \$125.00 inc GST.

Registration: Visit academy.sunshinecoastfc.com.au and click on the School Holiday Camp under "latest news".



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How well do you know your NPL teams?

Last Newsletter's Answers:

1. Which team's shield features the colours of the Italian flag? **Brisbane City.**
2. Which Club just had it's NPL license withdrawn? **Central Queensland Energy.**
3. Which are the two new teams included in the senior men's NPL competition this season? **Malaysian team Harimau Muda "A" and Brisbane Roar Youth.**
4. After two rounds, which team is on top of the SEQWPL ladder? **Redlands United.**
5. What NPL club has been known as Azuri? **Brisbane City.**
6. Which NPL team's colours are maroon and white? **QAS**
7. Which team plays at Mallawa Complex? **Palm Beach.**
8. Which team's playing colours are blue , black and white? **Palm Beach**
9. Which NPL Clubs have previously played in the old National Soccer Leagues? **Brisbane City and Brisbane Strikers.**

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