

PETER DRAPER

INDEPENDENT MEMBER FOR TAMWORTH

MEDIA RELEASE

\$11,000 in grants for Athletes and Coaches

June 10 2004

Member for Tamworth Peter Draper has welcomed funding of \$10,400 for local athletes and \$660 for sporting coaches provided by the NSW Department of Tourism, Sport and Recreation to give access to top level competition and training.

Mr Draper said 12 young athletes had each received \$800 under the 2004 NSW Country Athletes Scheme.

The scheme aims to help young country athletes obtain first class training, coaching and competition.

Mr Draper extended his congratulations to the athletes who included Lauren Burns Rees (Athletics) Billy Joliffe (BMX), Jake Forsythe (Baseball), Samuel Bates and Stacey Woodward (Field Archery), Brock Bower (Little Athletics), Emily Rixon (Cricket), Ali Douglas (Softball), Erin Callander (Water Polo), Brad Piper (Bowling), Brett Quayle (Triathlon) and Emelyn Starr (Tennis).

Meanwhile \$660 has been provided to coaches and officials at the Tamworth branches of the NSW Gymnastic and NSW Softball associations.

The grants of \$440 and \$220 were provided through the 2004 NSW Country Coaches and Officials Travel Scheme which aims to give country coaches and officials opportunities to take part in education courses to gain or maintain accreditation.

Mr Draper said the grants were a welcome boost for talented country athletes and coaches who sometimes struggled to fulfil sporting aspirations due to travel and competition costs.

He urged any athlete under 17 years of age, who was competing at state-age level in their sport, and who was registered, affiliated or had reciprocal rights with a recognised state body for the sport in NSW, to apply for next year's round of grants through his Tamworth office.

End Release

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