



SOCCER GRAND FINAL: UNSW is victorious again.



NETBALL: Notre Dame (blue) v Uni Newc.

PHOTO: BRUCE THOMAS



VOLLEYBALL: UNE (green) v UNSW.

Uni's urged to play it again

By CRAIG MCTEAR

CR KEITH Rhoades reckons our city should be justly proud of yet another successful Eastern University Games.

The Coffs Harbour mayor says the big event, which wrapped up on Wednesday, injects millions of dollars into our community.

Little wonder, then, that he wants them back next year.

"You just can't put a value on what they mean for sports tourism here," Cr Rhoades said.

"At one accommodation house there contracted price to have students was \$20,000 and then there's the flow-on benefits for local jobs.

"Again, Coffs Harbour has

excelled itself.

"The games officials were stoked with the community response and the friendliness of the local people."

Cr Rhoades said Australian University Sport general manager Tony Jermyn had indicated his team wanted to return to Coffs Harbour for a third visit - we previously hosted the games in 2006.

However, the city has to compete with other centres in NSW, Queensland, the ACT and Victoria for the hosting rights.

"A decision has not yet been made by the organisers," Cr Rhoades said.

"They are aware of the (\$2-million) lighting upgrade coming

to BCU International Stadium which could allow them to look at further night-time activities and adding more sports."

Cr Rhoades said the council and the community had worked together to bring important sporting events to the city and the economic benefits had flowed.

"The council is not here to make money out of sports tourism - we are here to ensure we are driving the local economy by attracting events and functions to our city," he said.

"Sports tourism generates more than \$40 million annually into our local economy as a result of sporting events coming to Coffs Harbour."

Know the road rules

By STEPHEN JEFFERY

IT IS meant to make young drivers competent on our roads but it seems just over half of learner driver supervisors read the Road and Transport Authority's (RTA) Learners' kit.

An NRMA Safer Driving School survey also found that only 37 per cent read the road rules before supervising a learner and 51 per cent thought their experience teaching a learner driver could have been better.

Although supervised learner drivers are some of the safest on the road, once they graduate to their provisional licence they are around four times more likely to be involved in a fatal crash than an older driver.

NRMA Group CEO Tony Stuart stressed that preparation by supervisors was vital.

"Learner drivers need to be taught properly from the start," Mr Stuart said.

"Otherwise they may develop bad habits."

The Safer Driving School is providing learner drivers and supervisors with a free 'keys2drive' session to provide additional education and information.

The 'keys2drive' is a Federal Government initiative supported by motoring associations across the country. It is designed to prepare learners for the realities of P-plate driving.

"A free keys2drive lesson pro-



KNOW THE RULES: Aimee Burns with her mother, Colleen, welcome a Federal Government-funded program, Keys2Drive, which will see learner drivers get free hours with professional instructors.

vides supervisors with a practical coaching approach they can use with their learner and focuses on teaching young drivers to reflect on what they are doing behind the wheel," Mr Stuart said.

Accredited keys2drive Instructor Phil Hannaford conducts the lessons between Coffs Harbour and Kempsey.

"Customers have been very pleased by the lessons," Mr Hannaford said.

"The idea is to try out P-plate level driving while still on your L's. If something goes wrong, we encourage the learner and supervisor to reflect on what went wrong and how they can fix it," he said

Mr Hannaford has been disappointed how few people in Coffs Harbour are taking up the lessons.

"I think it's because there's been little advertising in the region," he said.

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