COMMUNITY S*PORT A STEP IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION

The third annual Community S*port Mataranka event will be held at the school at Mataranka next week.

Sport and Recreation Minister, Delia Lawrie, said the event provides opportunities for students from small and remote communities to play sports appropriate to their age and skill level.

The theme for this year is ‘A Step in the Right Direction’ as the event also provides professional development opportunities for school staff, volunteers and Community Sport and Recreation Officers to develop the skills and confidence to provide regular sport opportunities in their own schools and communities.

The Minister said the success of the Community S*port Mataranka events in 2003 and 2004 had laid the foundation for a huge event this year.

“Sport is an important part of our great Territory lifestyle, and Community S*port Mataranka has become an important event on the sporting calendar in this region,” said Ms Lawrie.

“More than 120 students from schools throughout the region are expected to participate in a range of sports where they can discover new sports as well as develop their existing skills and knowledge.

“Participation in sport provides students with the opportunity to experience challenge, a sense of achievement, self discovery and personal responsibility so it is encouraging that, once again, so many schools have indicated that they will take part.”

Students, staff and volunteers from Mataranka, Manyallaluk, Barunga, Pine Creek, Urapunga and Bulman schools are expected to take part in the event, which will kick off with an Opening Ceremony on Monday 5 September.

Ms Lawrie said that for the first time this year, the professional development program will feature a Women’s Group which will allow women to participate in a more comfortable and appropriate environment and will allow flexibility to include children and carers.

The event will also include an Athletes as Role Models Tour with high profile athletes providing a mix of sporting activities and healthy lifestyle messages. Visiting athletes will include Glen Liddiard from rugby league and Tim Maloney, Adrian Newell and Nicola Mirich from basketball.

Sports on offer this year include AFL, athletics, cricket, netball, Play for Life, rugby union, softball, tennis and touch.

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