

29 March 2011

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## SP AusNet invests in Gippsland's future sporting stars

Gippsland electricity distributor SP AusNet has continued its dedication to investing in communities in which it operates with a significant contribution of \$15,000 over three years to the Gippsland Sports Academy.

SP AusNet eastern region manager Jim Haylock said the business was pleased to continue its involvement in the community-based program, providing local development opportunities for approximately 160 young Gippsland athletes.

"We see this as an investment in excellence – one that aims to provide greater skilling for our Gippsland youth.

"As a large regional employer of Gippsland, with a commitment to 'skilling for the future', we firmly believe in providing our young generation with every opportunity to succeed," Mr Haylock said.

Ms Judi Buhagiar, Chief Executive Officer of the Gippsland Sports Academy said she was delighted to receive the sponsorship and was excited about continuing the strong alliance with SP AusNet.

"It is an absolute delight to be associated with the recipient of the 2010 Minister's Award for excellence for employers of Australian apprentices. Together we will work towards strengthening development opportunities for the youth of Gippsland," Ms Buhagiar said.

"This sponsorship will enable us to ensure our programs continue to promote excellence among talented sportspeople in the region.

"This support from SP AusNet will be invested in the Gippsland Academy's Volleyball program, ensuring more than 40 athletes, 6-10 support staff and 6 representatives are fully funded for a minimum of three years," Ms Buhagiar said.

SP AusNet volleyball Program has been a part of the Gippsland Sports Academy since 2001.

Mr Haylock said it was a great to see the Academy promote programs that provide a holistic approach towards personal development as well as develop sporting skills while optimising the health and fitness of Gippsland's youth.

Each year, SP AusNet sponsors a large number of grassroots community initiatives with far-reaching benefits for those communities in which it operates.

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