

Government trots out funding

Horse riders at Samford Riding for the Disabled (RDA) headquarters will soon be able to enjoy a ride without roasting while in the saddle.

The group will receive \$100,000 to build a shade structure at the Samford Showgrounds at Highvale, as part of the State Government's bid to increase community participation in sport and recreation activities.

Sport and Recreation Minister Tracy Davis recently announced more than 80 Queensland clubs, including three in *The Westerner* area, would receive grants of up to \$100,000 to improve infrastructure and facilities.

The grants are part of the 'Get Playing' component of the Queensland Government's \$18 million grassroots *Get In the Game* funding program.

will build a roof over our riding arena which we hope will extend our operating hours."

Ms Emerson said Samford RDA planned to raise a further \$100,000 through the community and other grant applications to fund a roof over the adjoining mounting yard and associated infrastructure.

Pine Hills Lightning Baseball Club will receive around \$89,500 for training facilities at its home diamonds at the James Drysdale Reserve at Bunya, while the South Pine Sports Association will receive \$100,000 to install lighting for multi-sports at its complex at Brendale.

Member for Pine Rivers Seath Holswich said more than 240 clubs applied for Get Playing grants.

He said more than 900 applications were also received for 'Get Going', a component of the *Get in the Game* pro-



Member for Ferny Grove Dale Shuttleworth presents a cheque to Clare Emerson from Samford Riding for the Disabled.

Samford RDA President Clare Emerson said the "wonderful grant" would greatly benefit the organisation's riders, horses and volunteers.

"Currently we can't run lessons during the heat or rain for obvious health and safety reasons," Ms Emerson said.

"Together with a contribution from Moreton Bay Regional Council, the funding

program which provides up to \$10,000 to assist clubs with equipment and activities "to increase and sustain memberships."

Successful local applicants include the Pine Rivers St Andrews and Arana/Ascot hockey clubs, Bray Park Otag, West Arana Hills Rugby League Club, Albany Creek Excelsior Football Club and the Lake Samsonvale Water Sports Association.



Albany Creek's Alan Robertson has been playing hockey since 1954.

Still swinging after 60 years

If awards were given out for longevity and loyalty in local sporting circles, then Alan Robertson would definitely be a gold medal winner.

The Albany Creek resident joined his beloved Commercial Hockey Club as a 10-year-old in 1954 – and he has never left.

Robertson has just started his 60th consecutive season playing for the club dubbed the 'Cobras'.

The 69-year-old plays two games a week for the Newmarket-based club, as well as regularly representing Brisbane and Queensland.

Robertson says the mates he has found through the sport is what he cherishes the most.

"It's the everlasting friendships with the players you gain after being there after all these years," he said. "Even the ones I've coached, some of them I still see regularly."

The retiree played 12 seasons of first-grade hockey for Commercial, with the highlight being a premiership victory in 1963.

During that time he played with and against Australian Olympic players such as Don Currie, Fred Quine, Wayne Hammond and Greg Browning.

In recent years Robertson, who plays as a fullback, has swapped the mauve jersey of Commercial for the green and gold uniform of his country.

Between 2000 and 2010, he represented Australia in Masters hockey while playing in countries such as Egypt, France, England, Malaysia, Spain, Belgium and Singapore.

"When you play for Australia overseas it's pretty competitive," Robertson notes. Robertson describes hockey as a "family sport that everyone gets involved in".

"Everyone gets a fair go in juniors and all through the seniors. It keeps you fairly fit and active and I've enjoyed it the whole time I've been playing," he said.

"For people who haven't played hockey until they're in their 30s, they can learn the game and get enough skill to play in the Masters. There's not too many contact sports which you can play up until your 70s."

– Lee Oliver

BOOK COMPETITION

For more than 15 years Adrian Morley has been an inspirational rugby league player for England, the Warrington Wolves and the Sydney Roosters. *Moz: My Story* is the brutally honest, no-holds-barred account of the football hard-man's high-profile career, from his childhood home on Coronation Street and his brushes with the law, to his infamous big hits on the international sporting stage and winning an NRL premiership.

Thanks to the Slattery Media Group, *The Westerner* has one copy of *Moz: My Story* (RRP \$32.95) to give away. To go into the draw to win, send your name and contact details to: The Westerner Sports competition, PO Box 5189, Brendale BC, 4500 or email lee@thewesterner.com.au, Attn: Sports competition. Entries close 12 April.

