

## Murraylands clubs land active grants

By **Dani Brown**

SPORTING groups around the Murraylands have received over \$23,000 in grants funding from round 36 of the Active Club Program.

The program aims to help active recreation and sports club with programs, equipment and training up to \$5000 and facility requests up to \$20,000 on a dollar-for-dollar basis.

Jervois and Mypolonga cricket clubs, Mannum Bowling Club, Meningie netball and swimming clubs, Murray Bridge Amateur Swimming Club and Murray Bridge Basketball Association were among the successful applicants for funding.

Jervois Cricket Club was the biggest winner, taking home \$4800 to purchase sporting equipment.

Jervois Cricket Club president Brenton Schultz said the funding would go towards an artificial grass pitch cover to be used during the football season.

"It's a mat that's three metres by 30 metres long that goes over the top of the cricket pitch, and you fill it with rubber nodules and sand," he said.

He said the mat, which weighs 1.6 tonnes with the sand and rubber, will be used so a new pitch will not have to be dug out each season.

"You can play cricket, and at the end of the season you can have trial footy games on

the Sunday," he said. Mr Schultz said the whole set-up, including a rolling machine, a spindle for the mat to be kept on during the

cricket season and the mat itself would cost about \$15,000 altogether, so he had been in talks with three other clubs to work together to each get a mat.

"We got together with Imperials, Taillem Bend and Wanderers and we'd all benefit from having a mat, so we all applied for funding from the Sport and Recreation grants and the SACA (South Australian Cricket Association)," he said.

Although Jervois were the only grant winners from the group, there had been positive signs for their joint venture.

"We've been encouraged by SACA to apply again, they understand what we're doing as a group," he said.

"As cricket clubs, we've been backed by the council.

"As a group of four presidents and for clubs, we're still trying to achieve it.

We're all strong-headed and will persist as a group to get grants to be the roller."

Liberal Member for Hammond Adrian Pederick said seeing local groups apply for and win funding was a boost for the sporting side of the community.

"This funding gives regional communities access to quality active recreation and sport activities and facilities," he said.

"It is terrific to see so many applicants in Hammond successful in receiving grants."