



**AUSTRALIAN COUNTRY
STOCKMAN RUGBY**

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Monday 9th July, 2018

Australian Grassroots Representative Opportunity

The recipients of this correspondence include, State and Territory Rugby Bodies, Country Rugby Unions and Shute Shield and Premier Rugby Clubs.

The Opportunity...

Australian Stockman Rugby Union is forming an Australian Country-Grassroots rugby representative side to play the Western Force on August 25th. The squad will be complemented by professional players but will consist mainly of club and country players from premier competitions around Australia including the Shute Shield and Premier Rugby, along with players from remote, rural and regional competitions and representative teams. This presents a rare opportunity for amateur players across Australia who have been consistently performing at a higher level to put their hand up for possible selection and play a professional side.

The fixture represents a bygone era in Australian sport, we are grateful to the Western Force for providing it and excited for talented armature players across Australia to step up and grab their opportunity. The Australian Stockman side will be coached by former Wallabies Nic Henderson and James Holbeck and will go into camp in Perth from Saturday the 18th August to Sunday the 26th August. Nic and James will add a great deal to the development of the playing group over the week long period in Perth, both are quality people and have enjoyed significant success in rugby, both as coaches and players.

From here...

Given the limited time we have and the geographical challenge playing grassroots rugby in Australia presents, we are unable to independently conduct an extensive selection process that incorporates all the States and Territories, Unions and Clubs. We will rely heavily on the grassroots support from yourselves, the club and country rugby base in Australia. If you would like to provide player/s an opportunity to gain selection, please promote their name, contact details and a brief outline of what sets them apart for this opportunity prior to **COB Thursday 12th July**. We will then contact the promoted players, ascertain their interest and request a rugby resume. Our key selection criteria's include: Character, Strength and Fitness, Experience and Potential.

Please submit no more than five players for consideration and if you are unaware of a player or players that are at the level required to perform well against a professional outfit please don't feel compelled to submit one.

We will be briefly opening this opportunity up publicly via social media, your input and response to this letter will carry a significant amount of weight when we analyse the selection pool.

Cost...

Unfortunately, due to limited time and sponsorship there will be a touring cost of \$2,000 for each player selected (which excludes return flights to and from Perth and food and beverages). Players will



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need to rely on their own finances, financial support from their clubs and unions, and a 'go fund me page' if they choose.

A Brief Word...

A word from forwards coach Nic Henderson: "This fixture presents a great opportunity to reward some of the best club rugby players in Australia with a Stockman Rugby jersey and a game against a professional team. We reckon there is a fair bit of untapped talent in grassroots rugby, hungry for an opportunity like this one and able to perform at this level."

A word from backs coach James Holbeck: "It's a great opportunity to develop some up-and-coming talent while promoting a positive men's health message within the squad as a part of the Stockman Rugby program. The fixture against the Western Force will be a welcome challenge for us and presents a great opportunity to showcase some of the best untapped rugby talent in Australia against a professional team."

A word from the Force's Head of Elite Performance Matt Hodgson: "We are looking forward to hosting the Australian Country - Stockman Rugby squad in August and trust this experience will benefit grassroots players from all over the country. What we are building in the west relies on having solid grassroots development pathways, we see this fixture as an opportunity to do the same on a national scale, to invest into up-and-coming club rugby players from around the country by giving them a shot at the next level."

Thank you for your assistance in providing this development and representative opportunity to deserving players across Australia. To find out more about Australian Stockman Rugby Union feel free to visit: www.facebook.com/StockmanRugby or www.stockmanrugby.com.

If there are any further questions please feel free to contact via email, we will do our utmost to respond in a timely fashion, however given our current work load that may be a little later than desired.

Kind regards,

Shaun Mackin
Australian Stockman Rugby Union