

WA STATE COUNTRY CHAMPIONSHIPS

The Bunbury women's water polo team have won the State Country Championships, after enduring a nail-biting struggle to defeat Geraldton in an 11 – 9 showdown.

The game looked like being decided after a slow start from Bunbury, Geraldton leading 5 -2 at half time. After a stern "rev up" Bunbury soon found form, scoring 5 goals to nil in the 3rd quarter bringing a 2 goal lead in Bunbury's favour going into the final quarter. An on the siren goal from the 20m mark from captain Kylie English saw the Bunbury women take the title 11 goals to 9.

A huge upset in the Men's final saw Busselton defeat reigning champions Geraldton 9 – 6 after heading into the finals undefeated. This was the first time Busselton men have won the title. It was a proud moment for Captain Gerry Morelli who said "I hope this will be the start of many for the Busselton Club".

The South West also cleaned up in the major awards with Bunbury's Kylie English taking out women's MVP for the tournament and grand final and Busselton's Emma Morelli accepting highest goal scorer. In the Men's, Bunbury's Christian Hoad was awarded MVP for the tournament, with Busselton's Gerry Morelli the MVP for the Grand Final and Mark Gow scoring the most goals for the tournament.

Standout performances were rewarded to Bunbury's Kylie English, Alice Rotheram and Christian Hoad, all of whom were named in All Stars teams, together with team mates Eboney Franklyn, Chelsea Rotheram, Chelsea Barrett, Nicole Hearn, Natasha O'Neill, Alix English, Lee Styles & Rob Zuvela. All of these players have been selected to represent WA at the Australian Country Championships which will be hosted in Canberra in May 2013.