

Premiership favourites gain captain's nod Bears out to continue Cup charge

RUGBY UNION



By **GLEN MCCULLOUGH**
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MATT Warner wondered what he'd let himself in for when he returned to Toowoomba from the country to join Bears rugby club in 2006.

The A grade team finished that season amongst the also-rans and the future didn't look anything special.

This season, Warner, 28, is captaining a rampant Bears team hurtling towards its second Darling Downs premiership victory in the space of three years.

Bears are on a Cup roll of 13 straight wins and this Saturday they are out to complete a dream end to the season with a win over minor premiers USQ in the Risdon Cup decider at Heritage Oval.

It will be Bears' fourth grand final appearance in a row.

In 2007 they were beaten by a powerful Goondiwindi line-up before gaining redemption in 2008 with a win over Rangers.

Last year Bears again fell to their nemesis Goondiwindi but 12 months later Warner is confident his team's turn has arrived again.

"We've definitely earned our favourite tag," Warner said.

"From a club perspective I don't think we've ever had a run like we've enjoyed in the second half of this season.

"Of course that will count for nothing unless we turn up on Saturday but I'm confident we will complete the job.

"Uni is a class side, who have some quality players out wide, but they are sort of coming from where we did in 2006.

"I really believe you almost have to lose a grand final before you can win one."

Warner rates this year's Bears the equal of the club's 2008 team.

"Things really started picking up for us in 2008 with a change in structure, coaching and approach," Warner said.

"The 2007 team was probably the best I've played in.

"There is still five or six of us left from that period but whenever we've lost players, we've been lucky enough to pick up some great replacements."



Toowoomba Bears captain Matt Warner takes time out at team training this week.

PICTURE: KEVIN FARMER

On-target Foster scores state championship

PISTOL SHOOTING

By **BEN DREWE**

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WIDE Bay shooter Brett Foster recorded an outstanding score to take out the 1920 International Match State Championship at the Toowoomba Pistol Club's Helidon range.

Foster shot an impressive 1913 points from a possible 1920, which is where the event gets its name

from.

The Isis Pistol Club shooter held off Metropolitan Pistol Club member Dave Bartlett, who shot 1910 points, to take out his fourth state title.

Shooters in the 1920 Match event fire 48 shots in four stages at targets from standing and prone positions over various distances.

Foster claimed the championship double at Helidon at the weekend as he also won the metallic sight pistol event from Murrumba Pistol

Club member Bruce Mathiou.

The champion, from Kolan, was a member of the Australian team which placed second at the world championships in the United States in May.

Foster has been shooting competitively since 1996 and has established himself as one of Australia's top competitors.

The event at the Toowoomba Pistol Club range attracted shooters from across south-east Queensland.



State champion Brett Foster had success in his sights.

TEE 2 GREEN AROUND THE DOWNS



with
PAUL HABGOOD
and
RON JADACH

THE Darling Downs District Golf Association held its annual Inter-District Challenge at Middle Ridge Golf Club last Sunday.

The representative district teams consisted of juniors, colts, open and senior players.

The Darling Downs were too strong for the field as they were successful in winning the senior and open categories.

The Moreton District took out the junior and colt divisions.

The round of the day was played by Toowoomba Golf Club member Troy Neville who shot a four-under-par 68.

Adam Falconer Shield

THE final round of the women's Adam Falconer Shield was contested at Warwick Golf Club on Monday.

This prestigious event came down to the final contest between City and Toowoomba Golf Club.

City claimed the shield with a 6½-to-½ victory.

Final standings were: City 38, Toowoomba 26, Borneo Barracks 19½, Oakey 18½, Stanthorpe and Warwick 17½, Clifton 10.

Upcoming events

■ THE DDGA Zone 2 Championships, which includes Borneo Barracks, City, Gatton and Toowoomba Golf Clubs, is being played at Gatton Jubilee Golf Club this Sunday.

They are being held in conjunction with the Gatton Golf Club Open Championships.

Entry nominations can be made directly with the club on (07) 5462 1420 or fax your entry to (07) 5462 4610.

■ THE Carnival of Flowers Women's Open Day at Middle Ridge Golf Club is on next Thursday.

Golf, fashions by Vanity Fairways and lunch will be included on the day.

Contact the club on (07) 4635 1219 for further details.

■ BORNEO Barracks Ladies Open Day is scheduled for Tuesday, October 5. To enter, contact the club on (07) 4694 6183.

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