

THE JUNIOR AWARD... the junior award after being recognised

THE STEERING COMMITTEE... academy has appointed Candor

CHANGING AND MAINTAINING... Geraldton venues, including Eadon

SUBSTITUTIONS... Dongara and Kalbarri hosts Towns.

# Hoops net new interest

## ALBANY

HOPES are high for a return to state league basketball in Albany following an upsurge of interest.

The South Coast Raiders were part of the WA Basketball League for many years, but the game slipped in Albany and has taken time to get rolling again.

Albany Basketball Association vice-president, Rob Whalley sees a good future for the game locally and expects a recent boom in numbers in action to see the town return to the WA scene.

This season, 142 teams are expected to take part in all grades, including one from Denmark.

The standard of basketball has lifted sharply and Whalley mainly attributes this resurgence to the re-introduction of the Raiders' development squads in 2006.

Before the local league can realistically look at regaining a berth in the WA league, many more teams will be required, but with numbers continuing to rise, the future looks bright.

**CRICKET LAUNCH:** The Albany Cricket Association launches its 2010-11 season this weekend — and competition for the premiership is tipped to be tight again.

Collingwood Park, with five premierships in six seasons, is likely to set the standard.



**SPEED KING:** Chris Jongewaard blitzes his rivals.

# Debut title in sight

ELITE Australian cyclist Chris Jongewaard is on course to win today's final stage of the Cape To Cape mountain bike race and clinch his first championship title.

It is Jongewaard's first major WA cycling event since serving a two-year jail term for seriously injuring his training partner after a car crash in 2007.

Jongewaard has been the Cape To Cape's standout rider over the past four days, blitzing all three stages throughout the 210km journey.

He set up today's final stage pole position with a cracking second stage ride from Hamelin Bay to Margaret River on Friday, before blitzing yesterday's 50km stage three to add distance between him and his closest rivals.

Jongewaard, along with former national champion Dan McConnell, broke away from the main pack of 400 riders on stage one's 40km ride from Cape Leeuwin to Hamelin Bay on Thursday.

Jongewaard then pushed hard in stage two, cutting a path through the Leeuwin Estate vineyards and down to Surfer's Point, with Troy Glennan second and Shaun Lewis third.

Meanwhile, Australian women's mountain bike ace Niki Fisher is set to win her third consecutive Cape To Cape title.

She took out the first two stages before blitzing yesterday's stretch to Margaret River.

— BEN PAPALIA

would have been great. We're going to use that loss to spur us on this season," Willis said.

The all-rounder steps into the captaincy for 2010/11 after Craig Fitzley left the side along with Craig Mitchell and Matt Fink.

Mitchell, last season's club champion, has moved to Perth for WACA club Claremont-Nedlands.

Willis is confident that English signing Ben McGuire can fill the batting void, along with a host of B-grade players.

"McGuire is handy with the bat and we're hoping a few of our young guys can step up this season," Willis said.

"Joe Scafdi, Nick Black and Heath Linton all have a chance to play some A-grade after good performances in the B-grade."

# On your marks

## BUNBURY

SOME of WA's best distance runners will set off in today's Surf to Surf Fun Run.

Organisers are expecting record numbers for the annual run.

Last year 606 runners took part and a record 700 competed in 2008.

The race is held in three parts — a 5km and 10km run and a 5km walk — starting outside the City of Bunbury Surf Life Saving Club.

All proceeds will go to the club's lifesaver training program.

The race starts at 9am from Ocean Drive.



allround  
**Browns**