

2009 Finals night on the South Coast

In an exciting end to the CHS football season, South Coast Area held its own regional Errea Cup and Errea Trophy finals knockout night on Wednesday, 16 September, at Albion Park Junior Soccer Club's Terry Reserve.

This year over 350 school teams were entered in each of the competitions, so to reach the final 16 teams in the state, as these schools did, is a fantastic achievement.

In the girls' fixture, local school Albion Park HS played Narooma HS in what turned out to be quite a dominant display in the second half by Albion Park. Although fielding 4 year 7 girls, the Albion Park side held on to possession for long periods, limiting Narooma's chances. When Narooma did get close, Albion Park goalkeeper Trudy Burke was able to repel the attacks with ease. At the other end Narooma was under constant pressure and did well to restrict Albion Park to a goalless first half.

After half time, however, the tide turned and Albion Park found the net when Stephanie Bunker began a chain of passing from the back and made a run through to the Narooma penalty area to receive the final ball and score. This seemed to relieve the pressure and three more goals followed in quick succession to the Park, one by Faith Atkins and a double to Kristina Glisic. Narooma was able to make a late reply with a goal to Chloe French, but the final scoreline of Albion Park 4, Narooma 1, reflected Albion Park's dominance.

Natalie Munilla from Albion Park HS was voted player of the final and both team captains, Trudy Burke (Albion Park HS) and Louise Lloyd-Jones (Narooma HS) thanked players, coaches and supporters. For Albion Park, beaten in the last two years' finals, it was a case of third time lucky.

The boys' game was a fast and furious affair with some great quality football being displayed by both teams. Finalists Bulli HS and Nowra HS were both looking to play bright attacking football and the crowd was kept entertained throughout the evening. Chances came at both ends but 0-0 remained the score at half time.

The second half began at a similarly fast pace but it took until mid way through the half for Bulli to open the scoring, courtesy of striker Luke Mitwollen, bringing a huge cheer from the visiting Bulli supporters. Chances came at both ends for the teams to increase their accounts but a combination of outstanding goalkeeping and the frame of the goal prevented any additions being made by either team. With the score still at 1-0 the final whistle blew and Bulli players and fans celebrated their victory.

Jake Duczynski from Bulli HS was voted player of the final, and again both team captains thanked their schools and supporters after what was a very even and high quality game.

Special thanks go to the Albion Park Junior Soccer Club for hosting a great night's football and supporting our young players. Errea's involvement and financial support for the statewide competition is greatly valued and our own South Coast Schools Sports Unit has again provided medals for individual players from the two winning teams.

It was a fantastic night's football and a great credit to all schools who participated!