

Fiji trip for minor premiers



The hard yards: The Wyoming team, pictured here in training at Alan Davidson Park, are heading to Fiji to compete in the South Pacific Cup.

Picture: LIAM DRIVER

By PETER McCABE

CONSISTENT domination of their local league has led to Wyoming Soccer Club's under-15s scoring an invitation to play in the 10th Annual South Pacific Cup in Fiji.

The tournament, organised by the Fijian Soccer Association, is to be held just before Christmas and will provide a great experience for the talented team.

The competition is by invite only,

with this year's Cup comprising five Australian teams as well as three from the Pacific Island region.

The eight sides will be split into two pools, with the top two from each pool making up the finals.

Coach Gino Di Candilo said it was an honour just to be asked to compete, but also just reward for some outstanding soccer the team had been playing for several years.

"To be invited you must have been

minor premiers last year, that's what the main selection criteria is. These boys have been at the top of their division for three years," he said.

This year the team is on target for more success, duelling with Kincumber for the minor premiership.

"They're a well bonded team," Di Candilo said.

"We had five new players this year after losing some to Central Coast United Reps, but everyone has gelled really well.

"The side is just starting to peak now, which is good news for the finals," he added.

Mr Di Candilo said the players were well under way in raising money for the trip.

"We are about half way there in reaching the \$1600 per person needed," he said.

"Some extra team sponsors from the community for equipment would be a great help."

In the last ten years, five Australian teams have won the tournament.

The boys will be in for a shock playing in the hot, humid Fijian summer, and will rely upon a strong defence to bring home another cup.

With only two regular season games remaining, the side will play in the Champion of Champions knockout tournament a week before Central Coast's grand finals, then remain in regular training for the trip to Fiji.