Boost for kids sport vouchers

By JESS WEBSTER

TERRITORY families will have an extra $175 in their pocket after a $5 million expansion of the NT Government’s sports vouchers scheme.

Chief Minister Adam Giles said more than 20,000 children used the vouchers across the NT in the past year, with the increase from $75 to $200 a child to come in next year.

The scheme, used for every enrolled, school-age child in the NT, will also be expanded to cover more recreational and sporting organisations including dance, music lessons, Girl Guides and Scouts.

Kath Dunlop, of Palmerston, has four children who all play a range of sports.

Ms Dunlop said the funding boost would allow her kids to enjoy more activities.

“I’ve got four daughters, three that play netball and one that plays tennis, so this is a massive help as a parent,” she said. “But it will also allow the girls to expand a bit more and maybe take up music.

“They have shown an interest outside of sport but with four kids it’s expensive. They needed to choose one thing to do but this will now give us more options.”

Tennis Palmerston manager Sam Gess said the number of junior players had doubled to 300 since August last year.

“Having the vouchers twice a year will greatly benefit our program and help grow our numbers even further,” Mr Gess said.

Vouchers of $100 will be issued to parents twice a year.

Tegan Genieockey and Lochie Gallagher will be using their sports vouchers.

Picture: HELEN ORR

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New tree option at cemetery

A NEW memorial option is available for people burying the ashes of loved ones at Tho- rak Regional Cemetery.

In the Courtyard of Tranquillity, the Family Tree Garden features newly landscaped grounds with native trees and exotic hedging.

Families can purchase a hibiscus tree (red cottonwood) in the non-religious area.

Each tree has space for the ashes of up to eight people to be interred under the shade of its red, heart-shaped leaves.

Individual bronze plaques can be attached along a concrete kerb that surrounds the Tree Gardens.

Family headstones can also be included.

The cemetery is in natural bushland just off the Stuart Highway or McMillians Rd at 95 Deloraine Rd, Knuckey Lagoon.

Thorak Regional Cemetery joins the lawns, gardens and children’s cemetery that already exist.

Thorak Regional Cemetery is the only active cemetery serving the greater Darwin area.

Built on the old Berrimah Experimental Farm, it was opened in 1988 and named after Klaus Thorak, a distinguished veterinarian who looked after the farm’s dairy cows.