



Seniors on court - P22

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Taree indoor cricketer Kyani McCubbin has been named in the Australian under 18 women's merit team. She captained NSW at the recent Australian championships held in Queensland.

Australian selection

By **Mick McDonald**

FOR the second time in three years Taree indoor cricketer Kyani McCubbin has been named in the Australian under 18 women's merit team.

This follows the national championships held in Queensland, where Kyani was captain of the NSW team.

NSW finished third behind South Australia and Queensland, which Kyani said was a reasonable effort, given the strength of the leading two teams.

"We played South Australia first and we saw how good a team they were," Kyani explained.

"And Queensland's always strong."

But Kyani was ecstatic with her own form - particularly her bowling. Her preparation for the championships was hindered by a back injury she originally sustained playing indoor cricket last October before aggravating it in a car accident earlier this year. In fact just weeks before she was due to leave for Brisbane she was still in some doubt.

"But even if I'm 80 percent (fit) I'll be right to play," she told the Times five weeks before leaving.

As it turned out, she didn't have to worry.

"The back didn't trouble me at all," she said.

"And I was really happy with my bowling. I hadn't done all that much going into the nationals but I bowled 20 overs and only had one wide. I took a few wickets as well."

Kyani managed a few full sessions with the NSW team before they headed north after earlier training had been hampered by her back problems. She admits it's a 'bit disappointing' the Australian side is a merit selection, meaning she won't get to wear the green and gold in a match. However, she already has

her sights set on 2013 when the nationals will be held in Sydney.

"It's a World Cup year," she explained.

Kyani will still be eligible for under 18s and is determined to earn a place in the side, even though she isn't sure where the World Cup will be played.

She's now looking to having a game locally but has been thwarted by the fact that the Taree centre has closed.

"There's a centre in Wingham, so I'll look get some players organised and go up there," she said.

Kyani's a natural athlete, mix-

ing indoor cricket with its outdoor cousin, where she played with Cundletown's C-grade last summer. She is also a member of the Taree Wildcats women's football team, but her appearances have been limited this year because of her injury and then the indoor cricket commitments. She's in year 12 at Chatham High and hopes to attend Newcastle University next year. She's already looking at her indoor cricket prospects.

"I've played State CHS with a couple of girls from there and they've asked me to have a game with them there," she said.