The power is in their hands

The guernsey is ready, and now John Pine students are all set for their 2011 Power Cup campaign.

The Power Cup will be played in just two weeks’ time, and our local team has unveiled the guernsey they will be wearing.

On Friday afternoon at John Pine Secondary School, year 12 student and designer Jodie Stewart, along with her teammates, revealed the new guernsey to their school.

The message behind the design, a celebration of community and school pride, was appropriate, as the entire school turned out to participate in the Power Cup fun run and wish the teams well in two weeks.

South Australian Aboriginal Sports Training Academy coordinator Matt Gale was enthused to see his students taking part in the Power Cup for the fourth straight year.

Students and staff participating in the fun run wore their favourite teams’ guernseys, as a way for the whole school to get involved and show their support.

“We wanted to get the whole school behind the program and the unveiling of the guernsey, to show that we’re very proud of the students,” he said.

Mr Gale said the effect of the Power Cup on some of his students has been major, as it has taught them new skills and opened more doors to potential careers.

“The Power Cup has been really successful at John Pirie, a life-changing experience,” he said.

“A lot of these students lacked a few of these skills before, and the program has taught them to have leadership within their own community.”

Jodie Stewart, 17, has been a part of the Power Cup since last year, and said she had no particular approach to the guernsey’s design.

“I just went with my instinct – the guernsey includes a football design, some healthy aboriginal foods, as well as our own school’s colours,” she said.

“I’m not usually good in art class – I prefer to just do my own thing. “We have an aboriginal room, and I looked at the posters and designs hanging on the walls, which really helped my creativity and imagination.”

SAASTA director Lindsay Bassani was in Port Pirie on Friday to be a part of the celebrations, and said John Pirie’s enthusiasm was on a bigger scale than he was used to.

“This is the biggest turnout I’ve seen for a school’s Power Cup event, the amount of school pride here is above and beyond,” he said.

“Other schools could definitely learn from this.”

Mr Bassani was also impressed with Jodie’s work on the guernsey, and said the personal touch she gave the design will be sure to resonate with others.

“The guernseys look sensational,” he said.

“The design is a very personal thing, but it represents the whole team.”

John Pirie’s girls have had a lot of success with the Power Cup, and Mr Bassani said it is representative of a growth for the role of women in sports like football.

“Already, there are young ladies who have gone through SAASTA and onto traineeships in other sporting organisations,” he said.

“This will not only benefit the role for women in AFL, but for all sports.”

Mayor Brenton Vanstone and principal Trevor Rogers were among those who officiated at the celebrations. Principal Trevor Rogers went above and beyond his role on Friday, donning last year’s Power Cup design and taking part in the fun run.

He described the day as a “celebration of SAASTA”, and said it was important that the whole school was involved in it.

Independent Member for Frome Geoff Brock missed last year’s Power Cup fun run due to Parliamentary commitments – not wanting to miss out two years in a row, he rearranged his schedule to be at John Pirie on Friday. “I made an apology to the Natural Resources Committee to be here,” he said.

Mr Brock said the influence of the Power Cup was great, and that it had to potential to shape the future of its students.

“What they’ve done is given these young students the opportunity to believe in themselves and be confident,” he said.

Unlike Mr Rogers, however, Mr Brock decided not to have a go at the fun run.

“I wanted to participate in the fun run but I couldn’t see any first aid ambulances, and I didn’t want to embarrass these young kids!”
POWER CUP...John Pirie students proudly display their 2011 Power Cup guernsey, designed by Jodie Stewart, second from left. She is pictured with Maxine Horace, SAASTA coordinator Matt Gale, Chantel Wilson and Michaeyla Wilson.

### SGL vs Whyalla Scoreboard

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