Youngsters keen to cut it as Diamonds

A GROUP of young netballers have been invited to train as a squad in the hope one or more will follow in the footsteps of Billie Newton or Karyn Bailey – or go further and become a Diamond.

Both have progressed through similar squads in Alice Springs.

Billie Newton played her first game for Territory Storm at the weekend and Melbourne Vixens shooter Bailey is in Manchester training with the Australian team preparing for the Commonwealth Games.

The 18-year-old spent the past two weeks in Canada as part of her preparations for the event which is a huge stepping stone toward Commonwealth Games. The 19 players, aged 14 to 16, are in the Netball Australia initiative Develop A Diamond Academy to help uncover future Australian players, especially in regional areas.

They are being coached by Pauline Hickey and Naomi Pre cic.

The players invited into the training squad are – Gabrielle Rorchers, Abby Brown, Georgia Brown, Abbey Chalker, Gabrielle Coffey, Ruby Farthing, Sophie Gaynor, Chloe Keays, Dana Schembri, Krydence Schwalger, Iesha Smith, Vanessa Smith, Chloe Southam, Courtney Summers, Lidya Tangey, Mkealy Tiller, Paige Williams and Amy Wilson.

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