

# *Touchies Voice*

## *The Touch Fraternity's Newsletter*

*Edition Number 8/2002 – February*

### **EDITORIAL**



Wishing you, your families and friends a very prosperous 2002.

My hard drive crashed in mid November and I only came back on line mid January (no one could assist me so close to Christmas and the holiday season) I lost a lot of data but considering losses suffered by bushfires victims throughout Australia during this period I can consider myself very lucky.

The one item I do miss is my address book - so when you receive this newsletter – its future lies in your hands as it need your network of touch friends for it to get distributed to the “touchie’s door”. I ask your assistance in this project.

One of the last items on the Touch Colander each year is the NSW State Cup and their web site can provide all the results etc. Once again the evergreen team of men from Parramatta (there are some youngsters) showed why they are the best club team in the world.

That boast will be put to the test in 2003 when the World Club Championships are

being proposed. Watch this space for further details.

The Start of any year sees an International youth game somewhere and the ATA will be taking their youngsters on tour to play three tests against the Cook Islands in February.

Needless to say the tour is designed to aid and assist with the touch development of the Pacific Islands nations.

Also early in and year the famous Yass knock out brings together many of the top teams for a hit out to shrug off the Christmas excesses, especially mum’s plumb pudding.

Good luck this year to all players, officials and touch administrators. I hope your goals are achieved.

### **GREAT MOMENTS IN TOUCH**

Visits by PNG and Canadian officials to the 7th National championships in April marked the start of the 1987 Touch year.



This year was to see the ATA send a touring party to Canada and the USA with players and coaches to be selected at the National Championships.

1987 saw significant changes in the way “things” were done at the Nationals, which were played in April in Perth. Selections for not only merit teams but for an Australian

group to tour overseas were on the offering.

A new selection policy had been formulated and for the first time computers were used to record selection data for analysis, determination and eventual dissemination to all States and players.

The process of selection of Australian players was clear and transparent so much so that questions could be asked why so-called “favorites” did or didn’t make a team. It was a great success and all the appreciated its openness.

These Championships were also a platform to test new ideas for selection of coaches. Interviews were conducted not only with the applicants but also with officials and players from the applicant’s teams.

Again this showed the ATA as a leader in the professional approach it undertook in initiating Technical Policies.

As to the games played – NSW Women’s proved to be the dominating force at this event recoding the highest score 25-0; scoring the most touchdowns, 60; and having the least scored against them of only 1.

The final was as tough as they come with the final score of 4-4 remained at both full, and after extra time. NSW won by simply being higher on the competition ladder. It was a disappointing way to lose a title and the Qld men can now appreciate the anguish felt by their 1986 women’s team.

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## 7<sup>th</sup> NATIONALS HIGHLIGHTS

NSW men's team was out to avenge losses in the past two years to their archrival Queensland. On the other hand Queensland were on a roll and did not want to let them off the hook.

The round game between the two giants resulted in a 0-0 draw, which saw them both go into the finals undefeated. ACT gave NSW a fright in the semis only going down 2-3, however the Qld team had an easy 8-1 victory. Western Australia (host state) came third while ACT were fourth.

It would appear the story of the Qld's mens plight would follow the womens team. Having drawn 0-0 with NSW during the round they did not want to lose another championship after again going through undefeated.

NSW however saved them from being disappointed again by beating them in the final 2-0. Karen Smith was named the players of the series and you may remember comments about her "maybe" having got a raw deal the previous year. (See 7<sup>th</sup> edition of newsletter)

It was rather ironic Karen winning this year as many experts believe Kerry Norman was the player of the series and those making these selections had got the past two years back to front.

ACT finished third losing only to NSW and Queensland while the Northern Territory team came in fourth.

The surprise package of the tournament was in the Mixed Division where the Michael Sparkes led ACT team defeated Queensland in the semis and went on to meet NSW in the final. NSW showed their class in this division and won 7-0.

Queensland finished third, Northern Territory fourth, Army fifth and Western Australia sixth.

In the mens 30's division, NSW went through undefeated winning 5-2 against Qld in the final. ACT and Victoria finished third and fourth respectively.

NSW thought they were going through undefeated in all division even drawing 1-1 with ACT in the Mens 35's and winning against Qld in the round game. However it was not to be. An intercept by Daryl Lansberg could not be run

down by "Bullet" and Queensland took the game 2-1.

ACT were third and South Australia 4<sup>th</sup>. This final loss was the only defeat for the NSW camp at the championships as the mens 40's went on to win 3-2 against Queensland, also not losing a game.

ACT and Western Australia filled third and fourth places respectively. Needless to mention NSW were the State Champions with Queensland runner up and ACT third.

John Christopher re-asserted himself as the sprint champion in the Mens while Ann Drinkwater won the womens crown.

## ALLSTARS OF TOUCH

Without doubt one of the stars of the eighties was Karen Smith. Appearing as an Allstar for the sixth time in seven years.

Mark Boland appears for the second year and "evergreen" Andy Yiangou makes a long awaited appearance as an Allstar. Steve Vickery, Geoff Wardrobe, Cathy Pearl and youngsters Mark Hearndon and Jacquie Anthony all from NSW make their first arrival in the top row of players for the year.

Queensland managed only the great Kerry Norman, Mark Ostwald and youngster Rodney Thorogood. Local WA hero Tim McKee with Mike Casey from Victoria made up the balance of the group.

Bob White was the Allstar coach with Peter McNeven as Manager. Mick Cook was the referee and Chris Carstens from Tasmania not only being the Allstar official but he was named as the Administrator of the year by ASSA.

## LETTERS

The editor has not received any letters since the last ones published in November

## FAMOUS INTERVIEWS



This is the fifth in the series of famous people interviewed by Ian Stanley, the Aussie Mens Open Coach. TV's roving reporter finally catches up with the legend of World Cup Touch, the Master himself – Bobby Brindell.

Bobby may well be best remembered for his magnificent efforts as an open player at 4 successive World Cups. In 1988 and 1991 he was the Mens Open Player of the Series and in 1995 and 1999 he was runner up.

The Australians voted him Players Player in 1995 and Most Valuable player in 1999. Few other players match his longevity at this level but his achievements at winning these awards stand him out from them.

His representative career with Qld began in 1988 and culminated in the final Nationals under the State v State format in 1996. During that period he missed only the '92/93 years and was player of the series in 1994. In 1997 the NTL was a reality and he played for his beloved Sharks from '97 to 2000.

State of Origin gave the two states of NSW and Queensland a chance to settle old scores and Bobby went out a winner having played in all Qld mens winning sides of 1995, 1996 and 1998. (NB no SoO was conducted in '97).

He represented at Queensland's State Championships from 1987 to 1997 being named player of the series in 1988, 1992, 1995 and 1997 – a remarkable feat.

Bob has 35 World Cup Caps and is ranked ninth in Australia with his representative career at World Cup. This is a tremendous effort given he could have played in the 30's division at the 1997 World Cup for Masters. However he is the equally highest ranked (No.1) mens open representative WC player (Scott Notley jointly sharing the honour)

He has 10 Test Caps and this ranks him in tenth place for test Matches played by an Australian. Having a total of 45 Caps for Australia overall Bobby is ranked as the eighth highest player to have represented his country and second only to Scott Notley as a mens open player

### *When did you first become involved in touch and why*

I first became involved in Touch in 1984 – I was asked to play by an acquaintance, loved it and never looked back. Touch was a sport I thought of playing through High School, however, I wasn't aware you could achieve a National level if good enough

### *To what do you attribute your longevity at the elite level of the sport?*

My longevity in the sport of touch is probably attributed to the absence from representative touch during 1992/1993. This was forced upon me mainly due to work commitments and possibly the move to 6 a side.

***If you had to pick your greatest moment in your career – what would it be?***

1. Being a part of 4 World Cups at Mens Open level, flag bearer in the 1997 Trans Tasman, reading the oath to open the 1999 World Cup, being part of an Australian team which had various players from different regions, states and territories, but I felt no fragments or outcasts.

Once we got to that Australian level and I commend Scotty and Bus for this; there was no internal rivalry. The friendships I have gained from this sport remain true and although I have not played for two years, we still have a social golf club of past, present and future players at the South Coast level.



***What were some of your greatest challenges and moments in Touch?***

2. South Coasts dominance at a State level throughout the 1990's. Leaving Brisbane on a winning note in 1989 and starting from scratch with the Gold Coast who were more interested in the double D's than playing Touch.

Gary Wakefield, my brother Laurie and I set a goal of winning the State Title within 3 years and we were lucky enough to get there in the 3<sup>rd</sup> year winning two drop offs, one to go into the final and the other in the final.

3. Three Losses out of 18 against NSW. Unfortunately 2 of these losses were in finals, however when you are playing against the likes of Mark 'Bus' Boland and Shane Frederiksen, you get in, get the win and get out.

I felt Queensland went through a purple patch with a few old heads in Notley, the

Brindells, Pierce, Grehan and Foster and the young guns the McDonalds, Madders and Ward. This blend of youth and skill, age and treachery saw Queensland dominate throughout the 1990's.

4. The Win against the odds in Hawaii. Australia against New Zealand and specifically Craig Pierce dragging himself off his death bed and I actually think he provided us with the drive and determination to win.

In our semi final loss of 6-4 to the Kiwis, he was the only performer and he was sick, if Craig could do it then so could the rest of us.

***Who were some of your most difficult opponent, and why***

Scott Notley (I am talking about his attack) at his best is the best I have ever seen. What puts Scott above everyone else in my books is he has done it at 7 on 7 and 6 on 6. My first year in the State and National sides was in 1988 and I am not sure whether they meant to but I felt Scott and Bus took me under their wing, surprising from Bus considering I beat him over a 70 metre sprint before the World Cup was due to start.

The hierarchy chose Bus to sprint because he was the Captain and I was chosen due to being the Grommet, however the Kiwi streeted both of us and Bus ran a very close third. (Still have the picture)

To me, the quality of Bus was that he was always three plays ahead of the rest. I listened to him at training, talking to five of us, do this, go here, hit here and those of you who have played along side of him will know what I mean.

Since 1993, New Zealand had either won the first game in each series, be that Trans Tasman or World Cup and when it came to playing the Kiwis in the final of the 1999 World Cup a few of us were shit scared of not winning and not going out on a winning note.

However the first half of touch was not too dissimilar to the second half of touch in the final in Hawaii and eventually we increased our winning margin from that of 1988. This surprised me as I felt the Kiwis were improving dramatically.

Players like Corey Foster could have been the best to ever pull a boot on – if he knuckled down and trained – but I suppose he still had fun. Pat Grehan was another.

But my support goes out to the Indians, the workers, ruckers and defenders who made it easier for the attackers to do their thing.

***Your favorite Food***

Spring Rolls made the Vietnamese way with Rice and Mince

***Your favourite TV show/Movie***

It's a toss up between the Errol Flynn's version of Robin Hood and The Quiet Man with John Wayne.

***Who are the stars of the sport now that you and other have recently retired ?***

Craig Madders, the McDonald boys and Garry Sonda are the backbone of the Mens division at the moment. If Shane Frederiksen returns to Australia he will also have an impact.

***Can you name some up and coming future champions.***

Some champions of the future should be young players like Brent Madders, Ben Robinson, Jarrod Tump, Chris and Ash Farrow and the Malcolm boys from down Sydney way.

***If there were a rule to change to better the game – what would it be?***

Not so much a rule. I would love to see the game go to 5 on 5. People may think this would mean the faster players would have an advantage but I disagree. When Queensland played NSW in the first State of Origin, we were a bit worried about the NSW pace; however, you can only show your speed if you get through. The other reason why I would like to see 5 on 5 is because I don't play anymore.

***Thank you Bobby Brindell – and welcome to the Legends Club***

**THE LEGENDS CLUB**

Boland, Mark  
Brindell, Bobby  
Gregory, Stacey  
Toohey (nee Maher), Katrina  
Notley, Scott

## GET TO KNOW YOUR DEVELOPMENT OFFICER

### Joe Bonson

Joe has been the Northern Territory DO since May 2001. He has been involved in Touch in the Top End since 1981. Played Mens and Mixed Open for NT, 1985 – '88, and has coached at State level since this time.

Joe is a Level 3 Referee, Level 2 Coach and a Level 3 Youth Sport & Recreation Officer. He's also a qualified Selector. Joe is also known for providing fresh fish to touch visitors to the Territory. His idol in Touch is Brisbane City Development Officer Daryl Francey!!! Tips for you Joe- don't subscribe to the Daryl Francey diet.



### Matt Bamford –

Western Australian DO since January 1998, Matt has been involved in Touch for almost 10 years. Previous to his current position, Matt

worked as the Administrator for Touch in his hometown of Tamworth.

Played Mens Open at the NTL for Northern NSW in 1997, and has played with the Barbarians Mens Open team since 1998.

Matt is currently a Level 3 Referee, Level 2 Coach and Level 2 Selector. He also studied Sports Administration at the Uni of Canberra.

### Bernie Hutton

Bernie has been employed by the South Queensland and Border Districts Touch Association on a part time basis since 1993. He has been specifically tasked to work with the Year 8 Classes in schools.

Recently the Region has changed direction with Bernie's employment, he now has reduced his hours in schools and has been placed in Affiliates developing referees and players, as this is where development is currently needed.

Bernie also plays in a rock band "The Chevrolais" They are a very successful group playing in Sydney, Hamilton Island, Melbourne and other major centres. They will be coming to a sock hop near you soon so watch out for Bernie and the Boys.

## GREATEST TEAMS OF THE 20<sup>th</sup> CENTURY

The editor has not had time to research this topic for this issue. It is hope that a worthy tem can be featured in the next newsletter

## THE LONG ROAD TO COFFS

How far would you drive for a game of Touch? Some make a big effort to get to play their game each week, but has anyone covered as many miles for a tournament as Broome's Sky Jamieson?

After Ansett's problems in September, the TouchWest 18 & Under State Teams seemed set to miss the 2001 tournament. While Perth based players took on the very difficult and crossed the country by bus, Skye jumped on a truck in Broome before joining teammates on the bus from Perth 30 hours later....for another 60 hours on the road!

After 14,000km by road, Skye had made it from Broome to Coffs Harbour and back again. So what made her do it??



"It was worth it", says Skye. "The truck ride wasn't great, but I had no other option." Despite the huge trip, Skye, well known for her unusual hair colours, was just happy to be on her way to represent WA for the first time. "There was no way I was going to miss all the action. I was just excited to be going on the trip", she says. Now back in Broome, Skye says the future for Touch in Broome is looking bright.

"It keeps getting bigger, & players are improving all the time". With 15 teams in the current Broome season, Touch in Australia's most remote Affiliate continues to thrive.

"The competition has 20% more juniors this season, with a number of families coming to play in Broome's social grade", says Broome Touch Association President Paul White, known by the local Touch community simply as 'Whitey'.

"The social grade is something new for the comp up here, and Beach Touch on Cable Beach....is there a better place in the world for a game of Beach Touch?", says Whitey.

And Skye takes her experiences of Touch at the 18s Nationals back to Broome where she started playing the game...and where she still spends warm winter days on Cable Beach or fishing in Roebuck Bay.

## AUSTRALIA RETAINS TRANS TASMAN TROPHY

The Australian Touch teams retained the Trans Tasman Trophy in Hamilton New Zealand over the weekend when it won the final test match of the Series against New Zealand.

The Series involved three test matches in mens, womens and mixed divisions, with Australia winning the mens and womens divisions. The New Zealand mixed team showed they would still be the team to beat at the World Cup in 18 months time

The Series tapped off on Thursday 8 November at refurbished Westpac Trust Stadium in Hamilton with Australia winning the mens. The womens match was decided in a drop-off Australia's way, whilst the young Australian mixed team had a tough introduction to international touch, losing in a drop-off 9-10.

On Friday the teams met again with the Australian men winning in a drop-off, thus securing the trophy in that division. Australia's mixed were defeated by one touchdown giving the New Zealand team the Mixed trophy. The Australian women lost (4-5) its first game in 15 years of international competition.

On the final day of competition, the Australian and New Zealand teams had one rubber apiece, leaving the overall Series winner to be decided by the result of the womens test match.

The Australian women won the final match 3-2 to ensure the Trans Tasman Trophy remained on Australian side of the Tasman. The final game results were Women

Game 1 – Australia 4 def NZ 3

Game 2 – NZ 5 def Australia 4

Game 3 – Australia 3 def NZ 2

#### Mixed

Game 1 – NZ 10 def Australia 9

Game 2 – NZ 7 def Australia 6

Game 3 – NZ 8 def Australia 6

#### Mens

Game 1 – Australia 8 def NZ 6

Game 2 – Australia 4 def NZ 3

Game 3 – NZ 6 def Australia 5



### **SPONSORSHIP DEAL**

Touch SA is pleased to announce that we have recently secured a Sponsorship agreement with Ebanc

Ebanc in its short history has become the third biggest Trading Company in Australia & through this expansion is now looking to extend its business base into South Australia.

The agreements arranged will not only benefit the Association but also through our planning there has been provision made for all Clubs, Junior Development and Elite Tours.

The Sponsorship is in Ebanc dollars and therefore relates to the support of Business within the Ebanc structure. This is in the form of a Barter Exchange at varying rates relative to the product involved.

Ebanc has an intricate network of members, which are geared to the support of Sporting Clubs and items range from trophies to clothing, equipment, extending to accommodation and Meals. This can also be used as Vouchers to be given to Volunteers to use as a form of Discount.

Touch SA will be administering the provision of the Sponsorship Dollars and its Clubs can start spending immediately.

Ebanc also provides a sponsorship consultant to assist in spending of your

Funds on such items as Raffle Prizes, even Accommodation or whatever you need. In effect it will dramatically reduce the cost to clubs on many items. The money is there so now all you have to do is use it.

All Associations are encouraged to contact Touch SA for advice or to have the arrangements fully explained. Touch SA is looking forward to providing more benefits to its clubs in the future & hopes that this step will assist all clubs to provide more to its participants for less.

For more information on Ebanc visit our websites on [www.ebancsports.com](http://www.ebancsports.com) and/or [www.ebanctrade.com](http://www.ebanctrade.com). You may also contact the SA Office for further details on 08 8373 3222

### **NEW ZEALAND MAKE HISTORY**

New Zealand created history in the just completed Trans Tasman Test series. For the first time in the history of Women's International Touch Australia lost a game. Not since their first test match in 1986 had the Womens team been beaten in test or world cup events. After being undefeated in 35 World Cup and 16 test matches, game 2 of the series saw NZ run out winners 5-4 thus breaking a 15 years unbeaten run.

History was also created when the New Zealand Mixed team whitewashed the Australian 3 tests to nil. Never before has a NZ side proved to be so dominant over the Australian and simply confirmed their status and ranking of the number one Mixed team in the world.



On Friday the 16<sup>th</sup> November the WA Government presented the Bi Annual Western Australian Sport and Recreation Industry Awards.

TouchWest was nominated for the award for Provision of Sport and Recreation to Regional Western Australia. They were up against several other organisations and the hot favourites were a group from the Kimberley.

This group worked with aboriginal youth and the Shire of Roebourne and hosted the North West Games and were expected to win in most awards.

The night commenced with the Peak Body Achievers Awards. These awards are decided up by the peak bodies, from within each membership group.

The WA Sports Federation Special Achievement Award recognises a member sport who have demonstrate a philosophy of sustained development and governance at all levels of sports

delivery across WA with an increasing membership base. They have a membership of 122 State Sporting Associations and the winner was TOUCHWEST.

The evening then moved on to the nominated categories with TouchWest taking its place on the podium with the other nominees for the Provision of Sport and Recreation to Regional Western Australia Award and the winner this time was TOUCHWEST.

The Minister's Award for Industry Excellence was the final award of the night was. This was the most prestigious Award for the evening honouring the most outstanding finalist of the categories presented at the Awards. And the winner this time was TOUCHWEST.

In her speech accepting the award, Robbie Watkins (EOTW) thanked the many volunteers the State has and who are so dedicated and committed to our sports delivery. Without them, we would not be accepting the awards.

The Executive Committee and State Technical Panel were thanked for their vision and leadership, which was another major contributing factor towards the awards.

The Department of Sport and Recreation, Healthway and the National Heart Foundation were thanked for their assistance and support, which allowed us to deliver the diversity and intensity of programs that we do.

Last but not least the staff – Sarah, Matt and Kathryn who are selfless in their dedication to Touch and give so much of themselves received a massive thank you.

Touch is a very proud sport and is honoured by the awards bestowed upon it.

Touchwest wants to thank all those who contributed to them winning the awards. Touchwest was the most decorated sport of the night – taking three out of twelve awards – especially as they were only nominated for one !

The recognition for their peers within the industry is a magnificent celebration of what they do and how well they do it.

Congratulations Touchwest



## **TOUCH AT THE 8<sup>th</sup> AUSTRALIAN MASTERS GAMES**

A record total of 47 teams comprising approximately 530 individuals competed in the Touch tournament of the Games from Thursday 11 October to Sunday 14 October.

The teams competed in ten divisions, as follows: Women 30, 35, 40 age groups; Men 35, 40, 45 and 50 age groups and three mixed divisions. A record 10 teams contested the men 50 age group.

The tournament attracted international participation, with Papua-New Guinea and New Zealand clubs fielding competitive teams. The event was also strongly supported by local, regional and interstate competitors.

Overall, the touch tournament was successful, in terms of the preparations for, the competition itself, the venue and facilities and the social events conducted by the Touch Committee for its players.

The competition was very keen in terms of team spirit, and, it was very pleasing to the entered committee to see seven of the divisions won by Newcastle teams, some managing to complete the entire competition undefeated!

The Committee received a lot of feedback from competitors – in terms of how well the tournament was centered and conducted, with games running on time, referees provided and available on time for each game, and overall quality of the competition supported by good

administration. In addition, the venue was highly regarded, not only general facilities but the quality of the fields.

Just prior to the tournament commencing the field on which the event was staged were named in honour of Newcastle Stalwart – The Kerry “Joey” Campbell field.

Results were:

### Women's 30

Gold: Rainbow Wiggles

### Women's 35

Gold: Melbourne Masters

Silver: Manly

Bronze: We're PIST

### Women's 40

Gold: The Nights

Silver: Central Coast Ducks

Bronze: Novos

### Men's 35

Gold: Westpac I

Silver: Otago Brews

Bronze: Movers

### Men's 40

Gold: Late Nites

Silver: Banlaw

Bronze: Melbourne Madness

### Men's 45

Gold: Mumbles

Silver: Bulldogs

Bronze: Mittagong

### Men's 50

Gold: Lost Knights

Silver: Suncoast

Bronze: Orchy Rebels

### Mixed 30/35

Gold: The Bates

Silver: Westpac A

Bronze: Romans

### Mixed 35/40

Gold: Central Coast Dolphins

Silver: G Spots

Bronze: Bits and Pieces

### Mixed 40/45

Gold: Manly

Silver: Newcastle

Bronze: Geriatrics and the Pacemakers

## **YASS TOUCH KNOCKOUT**

Ninety (90) teams competed in the Yass Touch Knockout, which was held at Walker Park, Yass on 26<sup>th</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup> January 2001.



There were 48 Mens teams; 27 Mixed teams and 15 Womens teams involving teams from the Australian Defence Forces (5 teams); Crusaders (8 teams) and Southern Suns (10 teams) preparing for the 2002 NTL and from the Sydney; Erina; Umina; Portland; Bathurst; Orange; Albury; Griffith; Cootamundra; Young; Bowral; Moss Vale; Wollongong, Culburra; Canberra and Yass.

The standard of touch was very high especially in the Mens division, which involved the leading Sydney teams Parramatta; Hornsby; Wests; Norths; Penrith; Easts and St George.

St George, which was made up of former New Zealand internationals led by Peter Walters, took out the Mens A Grade final defeating the Roosters from the Eastern Suburbs 5-2 in the final after defeating West 11-4 in the semi-final.

The Roosters defeated the Crusaders 6-5 in the semi-final to make the final but found St George who displayed great skill too good in the decider.

St George after winning the final did the Haka and was clapped off the ground. They are great ambassadors for the sport and added a new dimension to the Yass Touch Knockout, which has now been conducted for 14 years.

In other results the Southern Comfort the Southern Suns Womens Open team led by Caryl Jarrett defeated the Crusaders 13-2 led by Maree Gutherie in the Womens final.

The Poidas from Erina led by Dean Wilbrow defeated the Menai Bulls 15-nil in the Mixed A Grade final; Nye Bros led by Charles Nye from Moruya defeated Joe Citrus led by Jason Restagno and Derek Santa Lucia from Griffith 11-8 in the Mens B Grade final; Drink-A-Lot from Penrith defeated Ford Civil from Peakhurst 11-10 in the Mixed B Grade final while the Macquarie Bank Lizards defeated the Hackers from Yass led by Chris Rawlinson 13-8 in the Mens C Grade final.

Julian Buckmaster the former Australian player regarded as the best touch player produced at Yass returned home to lead his old team the All Blacks into battle. Julian is the Media & Communications Manager for the Australasian PGA Tour.

Ben Webster another former Yass player led Parramatta while Paul 'Mary' McGregor the former St George-Illawarra Dragons enter played for the Southern Suns Mens 30's team and will play in his first NTL tournament in March.

\$12,300 prizemoney was distributed between the winners; runners up; semi-finalists and reperchage winners of the first round losers competitions.

A total of 250 games were played over the two days on eight fields, which were in tip top condition.

The Yass Knockout will be held on 25<sup>th</sup>-26 January next year and if you interested in nominating contact Rod Wise on 02-6226 2824 or email [rod.wise@customs.gov.au](mailto:rod.wise@customs.gov.au)



**USFIT  
TOUCH IN THE USA!**

We are preparing for our Nationals in Hawaii on September 28<sup>th</sup>, 2002 and are looking for experienced referees to join us for this event.

Unfortunately we cannot afford to pay for airfares however three great nights accommodation and transportation will be covered for those who would like to attend.

An open invitation also goes out to any other International team who would like to take part in our Hawaiian Nationals. Teams will be welcome to play in round robin play but will be unable to qualify for the play-off rounds.

However in saying that all teams that do not qualify for the playoffs will play for the USA Invitational Touch Cup. For further details contact Anthony Hunter [[ahunter@mlrugby.com](mailto:ahunter@mlrugby.com)]

## 1999 STATE OF ORIGIN

For many years and too many e-mails for me to remember I have been trying to obtain some information regarding the 1999 State of Origin Mens Queensland team.

Firstly I would appreciate a list of the names of the players in the mens team for both 1999 and 2001 and as yet no one has been able to provide me with his informati0on.

Secondly the touchdown scorers in 1999 for the Queensland Mens are the only touchdown scorers I do not have since the inception of the State of Origin.

In the first game Queensland won 7-6, while the lost the remaining two games 4-6 and 2-6 respectively. I would much appreciate have any details ANYONE can provide me so that the history of the State of Origin can be publish with accurate information.

If there is anyone in "touch land" out there with any of this information – I'd be most appreciative if they could e.mail it to me [cary@austouch.com.au](mailto:cary@austouch.com.au) - Thanks



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## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### 2001

29th Nov / 1st December	Australia Cup / Southern Cross Cup	Canberra	Australia
30th Nov. / 2nd December	Qld State Championships	Toowoomba	Australia
7th/9th December	NSW State Cup	Port Macquarie	Australia

### 2002

26/27 January	Yass Knock Out	Yass	Australia
17/24 February	Australian 18's Development Tour		Cook Islands
17/19 March	Australian Nationals (Opens/20's)	Coffs Harbour	Australia
21/23 March	Australian Nationals (Seniors)	Coffs Harbour	Australia
6/9th June	Asian Touch Championships		Singapore
13/14 July	European Championships	Cardiff	Wales
18/21 September	Australian Youth Championships	Coffs Harbour	Australia
19/21 September	Trans Tasman	Coffs Harbour	Australia
27 Sept. / 2nd Oct.	Australian All Schools (15's)	Canberra	Australia
31 Oct/2nd Nov.	Australia Cup	TBA	Australia

### 2003

22/27th January	Australian Youth (20's) Tour	South Island	New Zealand
15/17th March	Australian Nationals (Opens/20's)	Coffs Harbour	Australia
19/22nd March	Australian Nationals (Seniors)	Coffs Harbour	Australia
17/20th May	FIT Master World Cup	Kumagaya	Japan
22/25th May	FIT Opens World	Kumagaya	Japan
17/20 September	Australian Youth Championships	Coffs Harbour	Australia
Sept/October	FIT World Clubs (Opens/Masters)	Various Venues	Australia
Sept/October	Australian All Schools (15's)	TBA	Australia
October	FIT World Schools Championships	Cold Coast	Australia
30 Oct/1st Nov.	Australia Cup	TBA	Australia

### 2004

20/26th January	Australian Youth (20's) Tour		Fiji (TBC)
12/14th March	Australian Nationals (Opens/20's)	Coffs Harbour	Australia
16/19th March	Australian Nationals (Seniors)	Coffs Harbour	Australia
June	Asian Touch Championships		Singapore
June / July	European Championships	TBA	TBA
22/25 September	Australian Youth Championships	Coffs Harbour	Australia
Sept/October	Australian All Schools (15's)	TBA	Australia
28/30th October	Australia Cup	TBA	Australia

**2005**

19/23 January	FIT Youth World Cup	TBA	Australia
19/22nd March	Australian Nationals (Opens/20's)	TBA	Australia
24/26th March	Australian Nationals (Seniors)	TBA	Australia
June	Asian Touch Championships		Singapore
21/24 September	Australian Youth Championships	Coffs Harbour	Australia
Sept/October	Australian All Schools (15's)	TBA	Australia
October	FIT World Schools Championships	Cold Coast	Australia
27/29th October	Australia Cup	TBA	Australia
11/13 November	Trans Tasman Test Series	South Island	New Zealand

**2006**

18/21st March	Australian Nationals (Opens/20's)	TBA	Australia
23/25th March	Australian Nationals (Seniors)	TBA	Australia
June	Asian Touch Championships		Singapore
June / July	European Championships	TBA	TBA
20/23 September	Australian Youth Championships	Coffs Harbour	Australia
Sept/October	Australian All Schools (15's)	TBA	Australia
Sept/Oct	FIT World Clubs (Opens/Masters)	Cold Coast	Australia
26/28th October	Australia Cup	TBA	Australia

**2007**

17/20th March	Australian Nationals (Opens/20's)	TBA	Australia
22/24th March	Australian Nationals (Seniors)	TBA	Australia
June / July	FIT Master World Cup	TBA	TBA
June / July	FIT Opens World	TBA	TBA
19/22 September	Australian Youth Championships	Coffs Harbour	Australia
Sept/October	Australian All Schools (15's)	TBA	Australia
1/3 November	Australia Cup	TBA	Australia

If you wish to have any Touch event listed here then please provide details and it will be published in the following issues.

# Touch Web Sites

Federation International Touch  
[www.internationaltouch.com.au](http://www.internationaltouch.com.au)

Australia Touch Association  
[www.austouch.com.au](http://www.austouch.com.au)

Chile – Santiago Touch Rugby Club  
[www.atamericas.com/touch](http://www.atamericas.com/touch)

Richmond Touch Rugby (England)  
[www.touchrugby.com](http://www.touchrugby.com)

Dallas Touch Association  
[www.dallastouch.com](http://www.dallastouch.com)

St. Helens Touch - England  
[www.st-helens-touch-rugby.co.uk](http://www.st-helens-touch-rugby.co.uk)

England  
[www.touchrugby.com](http://www.touchrugby.com)

France  
[www.multimania.com/touchrugbyfr](http://www.multimania.com/touchrugbyfr)

Fiji Touch  
[www.teivovo.com](http://www.teivovo.com)

New Zealand Touch  
[www.touchnz.co.nz](http://www.touchnz.co.nz)

Canterbury NZ  
[www.touchcanterbury.co.nz](http://www.touchcanterbury.co.nz)

Paradise Touch (USA)  
[www.makatwork.com/paradisetouch/aboutus.htm](http://www.makatwork.com/paradisetouch/aboutus.htm)

Portugal Beach Touch Rugby  
[www.bdj3.pt](http://www.bdj3.pt)

Rhondda Cynon Taff Touch  
[www.rcttouch.co.uk](http://www.rcttouch.co.uk)

San Diego  
[www.sandiegotouch.com](http://www.sandiegotouch.com)

Scottish Touch  
[www.scottishtouch.co.uk](http://www.scottishtouch.co.uk)

Touch Singapore  
[www.touchsingapore.org](http://www.touchsingapore.org)

South Africa  
[www.touchrugby.co.za](http://www.touchrugby.co.za)

Welsh Touch (see below also)  
[www.walestouch.org.uk](http://www.walestouch.org.uk)

USA Touch  
[www.usfit.com](http://www.usfit.com)

European Championships 2002  
<http://euro2002.walestouch.org.uk>

ACT Touch  
[www.acttouch.com.au](http://www.acttouch.com.au)

NSW Touch  
[www.nswtouch.com.au](http://www.nswtouch.com.au)

Queensland touch  
[www.qldtouch.com.au](http://www.qldtouch.com.au)

Touch SA  
[www.sharks.asn.au](http://www.sharks.asn.au)

Victoria Touch  
[www.victouch.com.au](http://www.victouch.com.au)

Western Australia Touch  
[www.watouch.com.au](http://www.watouch.com.au)



Michael Braodbent's Photo Gallery  
[www.sportingimages.com.au](http://www.sportingimages.com.au)