

Touch-e-Talk



WELCOME TO THE JULY EDITION!

Following up on last month this edition contains more stories on our All Nations representatives.

We've also included the second installment of the 'Volunteer of the Month' and would like to thank all of those who have sent entries in, as well as those who continually devote their time and en-

ergy to our sport.

With the Special General Meeting and the farewell function for Bill and Gwynne Ker being held on June 25, it's certainly an action packed edition.

The photo gallery on page 2 for Bill and Gwynne is definitely worth looking at and remembering.

There are also another two feature articles on senior reps for the All Nations tour, coming up in just 3 months time!

Once again, we hope the July edition is an improvement and keep the suggestions and ideas flowing.

Enjoy the read!

Lisa

Rachel

Media coverage for All Nations...

The 2005 All Nations tournament is fast grabbing media attention, with the list of articles rapidly growing...

Already there have been several newspaper articles written about our senior representatives, including Maree Curran, Renee Sealey, Mary Anne and

Lawrence Fisher, Suzy Barrett, David Collins and several representatives from Wagga, the ACT and also Manly.

A number of Open squad members have also had stories written about them including Rachael Holden, Andrew Baggio, Matt Curran, Peta and Haley Roger-

son, Bo Delacruz, Chris and Ash Farrow and Phil Gyemore.

This is a great opportunity to keep promoting our players and the sport, feel free to contact media@astouch.com.au if you would like some assistance with gaining coverage.

Special points of interest

- > All Nations- More feature stories
- > Farewell to two great friends of Touch
- > The ATA Special General Meeting
- > Volunteer of the Month

INSIDE THIS EDITION

Welcome	1
Media for All Nations	1
Farewell and the SGM	2
Volunteer of Month	3
Odds and Ends	4
Sporting Images	4
Odds and Ends	5
Local Association	6
All Nations feature	7
All Nations feature	8

The ATA would like to thank all of our sponsors and partners for their generous support.



A farewell to two much loved friends...

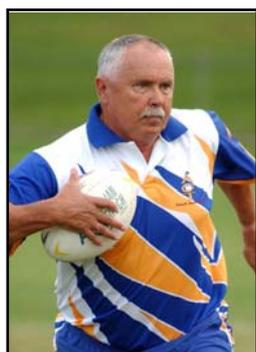
Bill and Gwynne Ker have dedicated a large majority of their lives to Touch and the people of the sport. It is with sadness but also excitement for them that we bid them farewell.

We will miss their passion and enthusiasm, as well as genuine love for the sport and the people. Our best wishes go with them as they head into the exciting time of retirement.

On June 25, following the Special General Meeting, a representative group gathered together to farewell Bill and Gwynne, including representatives from all around Australia, family, friends and workmates. A great night was had by all involved!



ATA CEO Bill at the AusTouch launch in September 2004.



Bill filling in for an injury ravaged ACT Mens 45's at the 2005 NTL. Go Sonny Bill Ker!



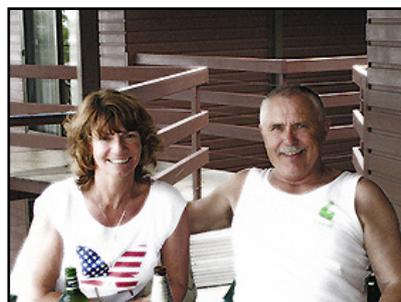
Bill all dressed up during his time with Queensland Touch Association.



Gwynne leading the 2004 Masters tour to South Africa and the Jersey Isles.



Gwynne (left) on tour with an Aussie Womens side.



Gwynne and Bill doing what they will be hopefully be doing regularly...relaxing and enjoying family and friends!

Special General Meeting

The ATA held a Special General Meeting on June 25, before the farewell function for Bill and Gwynne.

The SGM was held to vote on the new constitution for Australian Touch and the outcome was a unanimous vote in favour of the new constitution, with all state delegates raising their hands to bring a new direction for Touch and a revolution in management for the sport itself.

An advisory committee will work on how to successfully implement the Unitary Model of Management and how to make sure all see and receive the benefits of the changes set to take place.

"The decision to move forward with the new constitution and Unitary Model of Management is a fantastic step for Touch in Australia," ATA CEO Kevin Thompson said.

For the full story please visit the ATA website.

Volunteer of the Month...

Touch-e-Talk editors have received a lot of nominations for this segment and in an effort to thank as many as possible, we would like to recognise two 'Volunteers of the Month'...

Les Croft, a father of four and Grandfather of three, has not only been an elite player for the ACT but is also a highly respected referee.

Croft first took up Touch in the late 1970's after marrying and having kids, deciding to change from League to lower the risk of injury.

He first took to the Touch field in a team with his work mates from Telecom. At the time, each team was required to have someone qualified as a ref and being the team delegate, Les put up his hand. Little did he know that this small act would lead to much greater things!

Now a Level 4 referee he has refereed at numerous and tournaments throughout Australia, including the 1999 NTL in Coffs Harbour where he thoroughly enjoyed being part of the event.

He also referees for the ACT domestic competitions including Premier and Super League.

Fantastic with the junior players, Les always explains rules to them helping them to understand what's going on.

"He is dependable, reliable and always the first to put his hand up to help out," says

Gabe Hodges, Development Officer. "Les is an asset to the junior players here in the ACT."

From his first game back in the 1970s to his first national appearance as an ACT player in Perth (1987), Les has played in numerous over 35s and 40s teams around the country.

"It's really enjoyable going away for a week with a team...I enjoy the camaraderie of team sport," said Croft.

Les is still enjoying this camaraderie, competing in the Masters Games and playing with his team the 'Baby Boomers'.

By Maddie Collignon- ACT Touch

In 2003 the Newcastle City Touch Fields were named in honour of Kerry (Joe) Campbell, recognising the years of hard work and dedication he has given to the sport.

While many of us work between 30-40 hours a week, it's estimated that Joe gives that time to Touch as well, with the work he does including general administration, competition management, venue maintenance and referee duties.

President of the Association, Joe's hard work ensures the competitions run as smoothly as possible.

He started playing back in the early 1970's before a badly smashed nose required surgery and halted his charge.

He returned as soon as possible and has played every year since 1974, representing Newcastle in

1983 and then Region 5 (Hunter Region) in 1986.

His determination to make the State side was resolved after he attended training in Sydney in 1986 for the Over 40's squad, where he was told not to bother coming back again.

He then blew that comment away by making the side in 1987, going on to win the Over 40's at the Perth Nationals.

Getting older has not halted Joe's charge, as he continued to be involved with representative Touch, playing and coaching Newcastle teams until 1999.

Joe has also managed the Hunter Western Hornets Over 50 Mens side for the past four years at the NTL, grabbing the title in 2003, 2004 and 2005, with Joe taking an on-field role as a player as well as an off-field role as a Manager.

Being a level 3 referee allows Joe to referee at Senior and Junior State Cups as well as Country Championships, which in turn allows him to keep fit.

"I have met a lot of people through Touch over the years and have some great memories. I have decided to put a little bit back into the sport that I've enjoyed for over 30 years."

"I've retired from work and the field upkeep and running the local competition keeps me occupied when I'm not away fishing!"

Les and Joe, on behalf of everyone involved with Touch, we thank you for your passion and dedication to our sport.

Odds and Ends

A ready reference guide for judiciary matters...from My Club Touch www.myclubtouch.com.au

This ready reference provides information for all Australian Touch Association Members with a reference guide on judiciary matters.

It is intended to be an account of how a Touch Association might conduct a fair and impartial judiciary system and provides information on:

- The steps involved in the report, judiciary and appeals processes.
- The actions required during the judiciary hearing.
- Procedural issues of the Judiciary hearing.
- Regulations governing the Judiciary Committee and Appeal Tribunal.

- A list of suggested penalties.
- Schedules to use for reports, Notice of Hearings and Findings of the Judiciary and Appeal Tribunals.

For more information contact Chris Tarlinton technical@austouch.com.au or visit the My Club Touch site.

To download this guide, simply go to 'Downloads' on the My Club Touch site, then 'Data Files' then the reference guide will appear on the list of downloads.



National Technical Panel- Who are they???

Ever wondered who our National Technical Panel are?

Well over the next few editions we'll be bringing you features on the Directors, members of the Talent Identification Program, Referees Panel and more.

As an introduction however, here are the four directors of the Technical side of ATA:

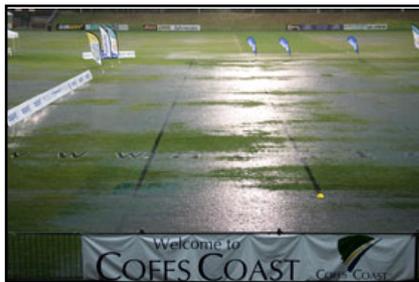
- Cathy Gray: Elite Programs Director
- Lou Tompkins: Referees Director
- Dennis Coffey: Coaching Director
- Ian Stanley: National Performance Analyst



Pictures of the month:

Crusaders representative Athanasia Savvoudis (from SA) has been selected in the Womens 30's for the All Nations 2005.

Photo: Sporting Images



The main field at the Coffs Harbour Stadium at the 2005 Seniors NTL. In a time of drought it's always Touch that brings the rain.

Photo: Sporting Images

Sporting Images are the ATA's official photographer, shooting all ATA events and many State and Regional events also. All photographs appearing online or in this newsletter are provided by them.

Photographs can be purchased at www.sportingimages.com.au

SPORTING IMAGES- PHOTOGRAPHS



Odds and Ends

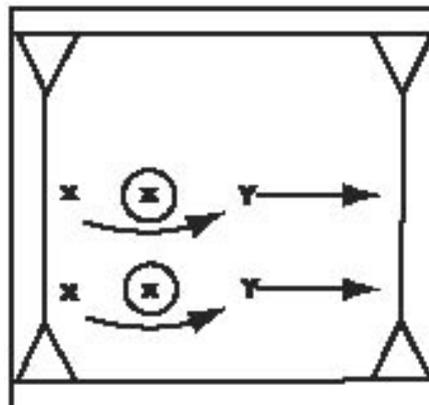
COACHING DRILL:

Roll ball Drill 1

PLAYERS: 6 or 9 per grid.

DESCRIPTION: Players stand in groups of three with one player acting as an opponent, the ball-carrier and an acting half.

The two "attacking" players alternatively roll ball and act as acting half while the other player acts as a defender and progressively moves backwards across the grid.



Once the group reaches the other side change positions and repeat the actions.

The object is for the player in possession to either be touched or affect a touch before performing the roll ball. The acting half, once in possession moves around in front of the player who completed the roll ball and so on. Commence the drill jog, half-pace, full pace etc.

COACHING POINTS:

Players performing the roll ball after a touch. All the teaching factors of the roll ball. Picking up the ball correctly as the acting half.

EQUIPMENT: One ball per group of three. Grid markers.

REFEREE SIGNAL OF THE MONTH:

Acting Half Caught

Both arms are crossed in front of the body with the arms at chest height, forearms vertical with elbows bent and fists clenched. (Palms face towards body)



ATA Merchandise are currently undertaking a stock take of all gear, clothing, equipment and other ATA merchandise.

Keep an eye on the ATA website because as soon as it's done we'll be looking to clear out the old stock with excellent sales and great discount prices.



Local Association of the Month- Parramatta Touch

With the vote to adopt a new constitution passed and the focus on now bringing better service to all of ATA's affiliates, we thought that Touch-e-Talk would take the chance to write about a thriving affiliate in Sydney's west...Parramatta...

For over thirty years the Parramatta Touch Association in Sydney's west, has been one of the leading local affiliates throughout not just Sydney, but Australia.

Their list of legends boasts talented Touchies such as Mark 'Bus' Boland and Mark Hornery.

The representative scene at Parramatta has always been strong with their early success encouraging players, to improve their own ability.

Parramatta have also played a large role in developing the standard and competition in Women's Touch Footy.

It is this developing role that Parramatta Touch now thrives on.

Parramatta has a very large junior competition with well over 90 teams competing in the summer months.

Parramatta Touch Administrator, Gary Croft is doing his best to nurture the sport he loves at a local level.

"We firstly encourage them into loving the sport and enjoying it at park level while giving them the opportunity to represent Parramatta if they wish at the NSW Junior State Cup," said roft.

"My motivation comes from bringing juniors through, coaching them into being part of a team with a good attitude, loyalty and pride towards Parramatta. Motivation is not always about winning but giving every player a sense of achievement," he said.

The future of Touch in the Parramatta district is excellent with thriving competitions and growing player numbers.

"The future of Parramatta in the district is strong and can be improved by encouraging our juniors to advance with pride for this affiliate, playing in our domestic senior competition and representative teams," said Croft.

We congratulate and thank the people at Parramatta for their hard work ensuring the sport of Touch continues to grow and develop.

WHO AM I?

The answer to last month's 'Who Am I' was: Mick McCall

Born 7th October 1969
I am one of Australia's most successful Womens representative players.

I have won 8 Sydney Championships titles and 7 State Cup titles.

I captained NSW Women's Open from 1993-1999 and Australian Women's Open from 1995-1999.

I was the youngest female Women's Open player and NSW flag bearer in 1986.

I am undefeated as an Australian representative.

The answer can be found on the ATA Hall of Fame page.

Simply hold your mouse over 'The ATA' on www.austouch.com.au and Hall of Fame will come up in the list of options.

July is a big month for birthdays in the ATA office...



Happy Birthday to retired CEO Bill for the 7th, Office Manager Lyn for the 10th and National Technical Assistant Chris for the 18th.

Wayne's inspired by the up and coming talent of Australian juniors

Here is another feature on one of our All Nations Senior representatives...

When Wayne Gleeson marches out in the green and gold of Australia for the 2005 All Nations Tournament the thing he'll be looking forward to the most is facing up to the Kiwi's as they confirm their presence with the Haka.

"I reckon I'll have goose bumps like golf balls," said Gleeson.

Representing his country will be one of Wayne's proudest moments, in both his Touch career and in his life.

"I'm stoked to play Touch for my country, not many people get a chance to pull on the green and gold," said Wayne.

Wayne comes from the mid north coast of NSW, where Touch is a thriving. He has been lucky enough to play such major tournaments as the NSW State Cup and NTL on his home turf.

"State Cup is my favorite tournament, playing in front of my home town. It would be enormous if we won it. If the Northern Eagles were more competitive, NTL would be the ultimate test," said Wayne.

Wayne is not only involved in playing Touch in his region, but also the administration

side. He has been on the Port Macquarie Touch Association committee since 2002 and part of the Northern Eagles committee for 2005.

He enjoys being a leader on the field, both coaching and captaining the Port Macquarie Mixed side since 2001 and the Northern Eagles in 2004 and 2005.

Wayne is inspired by the young up and coming Touch talent on display and is confident that Touch in Australia is safe in the hands of these players.

"The future of Touch in Australia is enormous. Kids these days are playing like 200-game veterans. There are plenty of good kids coming through, smart people in the right places will see Touch continue to thrive and grow to its greatest potential, regardless of the opposing sports," Wayne said.

SPONSORSHIP:

With the cost of attending a tour such as the All Nations high, many players are seeking sponsorship from their local community and businesses.

The Sovereign Hills development team is sponsoring Wayne Gleeson for the event.

Funds for the sponsorship have been donated by the Sovereign Hills land develop-

ment, set to become a vibrant new community to the west of Port Macquarie.

"Our focus with Sovereign Hills has been about creating the ultimate in lifestyle for locals – and also about creating the best environment for living, working and playing for our future residents. We are big advocates of competitive sport and our support of Wayne in this international arena ties in with this", said Mr Robert Yandell, Director of The Lewis Land Group.

"We are proud to be active in supporting Port Macquarie's local sporting talent," he said.

State-of-the art sporting and recreational facilities are planned to be a key feature within the Sovereign Hills development.

For further information about Sovereign Hills visit www.sovereignhills.com.au



Picture courtesy of:

Sporting Images

"I reckon I'll have goose bumps like golf balls," said Gleeson at the prospect of facing the Kiwi's Haka.

Fishers thrilled to play for Oz



Here is another feature on two of our All Nations representatives for the tournament in October 2005...

For Mary-Anne and Lawrence Fisher, representing Australia means as much to them as when they represented their home country of New Zealand.

Having moved to Australia only last year, Mary-Anne and Lawrence were thrilled to be selected for Australia so quickly.

"I think it's a great privilege to play for any country, but to play for Australia is the ultimate goal," said Mary-Anne.

Mary-Anne is the only Queensland representative in the Women's over 30's side to play at the All Nations tournament in October, whose players are mainly from NSW.

Lawrence is competing in the Mixed over 30's and is excited about playing alongside the best players in the world.

"It's a bit overwhelming because Australia is the world champion team," said Lawrence.

They have both played extensive representative Touch with Mary-Anne representing New Zealand in Women's Open and Mixed Open sides between 1994 and 2003. She was a part of the 1995 and 2003 World Cups in Hawaii and Japan.

Lawrence also represented New Zealand in the mixed open team in 1995 as well as representing the North Harbour, Auckland and Counties regions.

The couple are not worried about playing against their former Kiwi teammates.

"We'll be playing against our old friends, and I can see them looking towards us as traitors, but we don't really care actually—we're just proud to be representing Australia," jokes Lawrence.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- **July 15:** Round 1 of NSWTA Vawdon Cup
- **July 25:** ACT Winter Junior Competition kicks off
- **July 30:** Vic Touch Level 2 Referees Course, Melbourne
- **August 5-7:** QTA Level 2 Coaching Course, Brisbane
- **September 3-4:** Victoria vs SA Border Challenge, Mildura
- **September 7-10:** ATA 18 Years National Championships, Coffs Harbour
- **September 18-23:** School Sport Australia 15 Years Championships, Darwin
- **September 25-October 1:** Australian Uni Games, Brisbane



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