



Hockey Queensland

Remote and Indigenous Communities
Hockey Development Program

2006 Report

Hockey Queensland
Remote and Indigenous Communities Hockey Development Program

2006 Report



Brian Fitzpatrick (Board Member) Hockey Qld and members of the Doomadgee team.

Vision

Encouraging community involvement and designed to offer opportunity to expand horizons of thought, self awareness and self development through Hockey Art, Education and Player Development

**This program is made possible through the support of
Queensland Government + Sport and Recreation Queensland
Australian Sports Commission + Hockey Australia**

Introduction



It is sometimes difficult to accurately describe the Remote and Indigenous Program even after it has been delivering programs for in excess of 5 years. I more recently described the Program as

“a partnership of people/communities/organizations
and businesses all joining together at different times
committed to achieving the Programs visions
the best way possible”

This Program has never accepted mediocrity and in doing so has constantly challenged itself and all those involved-

- to be as productive as possible sometimes in spite of many difficult and varying obstacles
- to always keep an open mind to new and exciting possibilities, and most of all
- to strive to be the very best we can be at any given point in time regardless of where we are and what resources we have to work with.

Any success that this program achieves will ultimately be determined by the people in the remote communities we deliver to and those associations and organizations we build and strengthen relationships with.

Our own measurement of success however is based on what we can inspire ourselves and others to achieve. As you read through the 2006 Report, we hope you too are inspired. We leave you with what drives us:-

Ability is what you're capable of
Motivation determines what you do
Attitude determines how well you do it.

Julie McNeil – Manager
Hockey Queensland
Remote and Indigenous Communities Hockey Development Program

Remote and Indigenous Communities
Hockey Development Program

2006 Summary



Karumba Hockey Club member competing in the Karumba Hockey Festival 2006

Like any dynamic program, the Remote and Indigenous Communities Hockey Development Program continues to evolve and 2006 was no exception. The Program expanded into the general hockey community with the Harmony Day Project while we continued to build and strengthen existing community partnerships

There are four (4) main focus areas of the Program and we believe the 2006 Highlights are:-

The Highlights for 2006

- Harmony Day Hockey – We are all playing on the Same team
This project asked 5 associations to tackle the issues of culture and community that the remote program faces on a daily basis and use this in a variety of different ways to Highlight Harmony Day
- Remote Hockey Website – this was developed as a communication and resource tool
- Pathways and Participation
 1. First Boys team from the Gulf completed in the Under 13 State Championships
 2. Relationship with Mount Isa and the Gulf developing towards regional competition
 3. Torres Strait Island participation program developing – Rooky Hockey
 4. Hook in2 Hockey programs increasing
 5. Palm Island developing
 6. Weipa Program developing
 7. Active After School Program relationship developing
- Eduction and Training
 1. Cairns Tafe Program Developing
 2. Women’s Mentor Program Developing
 3. Coach and Umpire Program Developing

The Active After School Community Program (AASC) began as a Project partner in 2005 and in 2006 we have been able to strengthen this partnership with the assistance of Gulf Sport and Recreation

Association Inc. Using the Hookin2Hockey program and the AASC Program we have been able to see over 80 young people from 6 communities be involved in these Participation Initiatives. It is set to increase in 2007.

Involving the young people of Remote and Indigenous Communities in Competition and subsequent pathways to further opportunities has always been of paramount importance to this Program. Many communities are so small that they could barely field 2 teams within the community so competitive sport and the life lessons surrounding this and being a member of a team is lost to many. This is why the Cooktown Cup and the Karumba Hockey Festival is so important. It is all about coming together and learning to play together in a team. In most cases, the prizes we give them are not trophies. It is an understanding of teamwork, sportsmanship and that feeling of achieving and sharing something as part of a team rather than as an individual. These skills and lessons will better prepare them for the future when they leave their communities to go to Boarding Schools or by choice when they are older and seek to part of a larger community

You see the Remote and Indigenous Hockey Development Program although Hockey based is not always about Hockey – it is however always about involving the young person in the Remote Communities in the sport of Hockey and involving someone in the sport can take many forms.



Rooky Hockey Program in Weipa

A sincere thank you to our many supporters including Sport and Recreation Queensland, Australian Sports Commission and Hockey Australia. I would also like to thank the Board of Hockey Queensland for their ongoing support of this program.

Garry West-Bail the General Manager of Hockey Queensland gives unconditional support to this Program. He is an integral element of the success of the Program and should be congratulated for providing such a positive direction for Hockey Queensland – one where the Remote Program can always find a welcome home.

This Report would not have the impact it does without the assistance Annette West-Bail offers this Program and my sincere thanks for producing every time the high of quality work. It does make a difference.

This Program would certainly not be as efficient without our strong ties with Cairns Hockey and the members of the Cairns Association that support this program again we thank them for the commitment to the Program in particular Mick Evans for his support. We extended our Program into the general hockey community and thank you to all those members of the Associations that we worked with this year that invested their precious time and experience to ensure that the projects were a success. To the members of Hervey Bay and Atherton Hockey Associations, thank you sincerely for making the Gulf teams welcome and adding to the enjoyment of their experience in your respective communities.

Wes Ferns has taken this program from strength to strength in his role as the Program's Development Officer. He is respected within the communities and it seems his professional growth is one of our proudest achievements. We acknowledge the quality of his work it is second to none.

All this translated into more and more people playing and being involved in hockey. Our next challenge 6 years from the program's inception is assisting the young people from the communities in particular the Gulf to find pathways into clubs once they leave to attend Boarding Schools in the Townsville and Charters Towers Regions. We are working on this strategy presently but like all things it will take time, support and resources. Small Steps will be our approach once again.

Finally I have always indicated to you that Education and Training through all steps of this Program has been one of our main aims and our greatest achievements has been the on going training of our own people within this Program. Our indigenous trainer Michael Robertson left the program this year after 2 years due to family circumstances and Michael was asked to set out his thoughts on the Remote Program – he will be missed.

"During my time in the program there have been many highlights and I am fortunate to have seen the many contrasts as well as some similarities between all of the communities and centres I have visited. I'm not only talking about the communities that are part of the program I'm talking about everything I've seen from Thursday Island to Wujal Wujal to Cairns to Canberra back up to Karumba and everywhere in between. I have watched the top hockey players in the world compete and I have been part of that grass roots level they talk about, when I say grass roots I really mean the "seeds before they even become grass roots level". It has been a great experience to see the program and the people involved develop and advance.

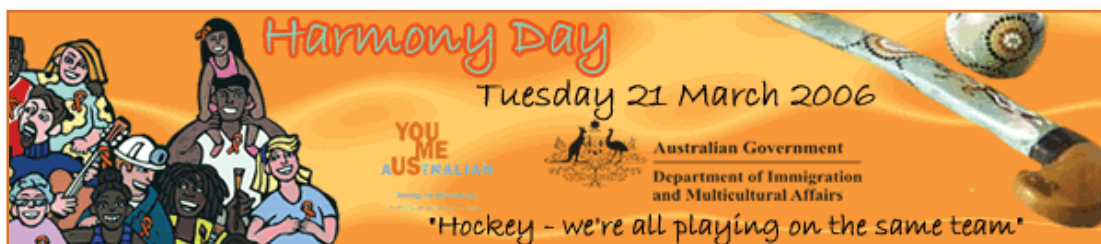
I would have to write a complete book if I were to detail every experience I have had as part of the Remote and Indigenous Program however I would have to say meeting new people (some of them not so new) and seeing the vastness of the land, these two things will stay in my mind the most. A specific highlight for me was coaching the under 13 Girls Gulf Savannah team at the State Championships in Hervey Bay, this was a highlight because it was good to see I guess the result of many peoples hard work and relentlessness. There have been highs and there have been lows but it has all been worth it because they have all contributed to my growth as a person, anyone who knows me knows I don't really talk like this but I have gained a wealth of knowledge and experience.

My advice for anyone looking at getting involved with the program particularly on the ground level is be ready for whatever. There aren't really any credentials that can make you the right person for the job. Sure you can gain accreditations and qualifications that do assist, however it really comes back to your attitude and willingness to learn. When dealing with remote and indigenous communities you step back into the real world where things take real time, all that can be done is all that can be done and sometimes you're at the mercy of nature. That's what is good about this job you take a step further into reality, how things really are and you end up the wiser. Most people don't understand, you really have to see it for yourself.

Michael Robertson

Julie McNeil

Remote and Indigenous Communities Program Manager 2006



The Remote and Indigenous Hockey Development Program applied for and received a grant under the Living in Harmony community grants program, which encourages local communities to play a positive role in achieving the objectives of the initiative through:

- addressing issues of racism in the community, and/or
- promoting community harmony between people and groups from different cultural, racial, religious or social backgrounds in the community.

These are the kinds of issues our Program and its team members address on a daily basis, but the same cannot always be said for the balance of the Hockey population. Here was a chance for the Remote program to come together with the mainstream Hockey population to run a Project that could highlight and address issues that are faced each day in our Program.

This Activity, Harmony Hockey Art, aims to develop relationships between young people from Indigenous and non Indigenous communities using Hockey Art and cross culture values as a positive and productive way of removing prejudice.

Who was involved:-

- Rockhampton Hockey Association Inc
- Brisbane Women's Hockey Associations Inc
- Mackay Hockey Association Inc
- Cairns Hockey Association Inc
- Gulf Sport and Recreation Association Inc
- Bloomfield River State School and Community

**Gulf Sport and Recreation Association embrace Harmony Day
Hockey – We're all playing on the Same Team**



Gulf Sport Recreation Association (GSRA) has embraced Hockey – We're All on the Same Team Harmony Day events, and is celebrating Harmony Day throughout March.

Students who will be celebrating Harmony Day with GSRA come from numerous communities in The Gulf, including Croydon, Carpentaria and Burke Shires, Communities of Doomadgee, Mornington Island and Kowanyama, Burketown State School (SS), Croydon SS, Doomadgee SS, Forsyth SS, Georgetown SS, Gulf Christian College Karumba SS, Kowanyama SS, Mornington Island SS, Mount Surprise SS, Normanton SS and Cairns Distance Education / Remote Parents Group.

Active After School Care through GSRA have already begun decorating banners celebrating Harmony Day, and students have been encouraged to talk about Harmony Day and the issues that effect them every day.

Under the leadership of the GSRA staff, modified Hockey clinics will be held in Normanton at the Sports Centre throughout the week beginning Monday, 20 March.

To prove the length and width of Harmony Day's coverage, the community of Croydon will host an Eisteddfod, and the children involved in Harmony Day Hockey will celebrate with a corroboree - combining dance, sport and culture.

Bloomfield River State School joins in Harmony Day

Bloomfield River State School, north of Cooktown, has joined in the Hockey - We're All on the Same Team Harmony Day events, and will be celebrating Harmony Day on Tuesday 21 March.



Bloomfield River State School

Students of the river community will be sharing their thoughts and feelings about Harmony Day with each other and are scheduled to have a fun-filled day celebrating the different elements of their community.

Hockey Queensland Development Officers, Wes Ferns and Michael Robertson (trainee) will be on hand to assist the Bloomfield River community with their celebrations, which include a two hour hockey basics program. The program includes Hockey skills and drills, including dribbling, pushing, trapping and learning the basic rules of modified games.

The students and teachers of Bloomfield will host a morning tea following the hockey program, and plan to invite parents and the community to attend and help celebrate the day.

Organisers are will be inviting a local elder from the community to talk with the students about the importance of playing on the same team.

The Harmony Day Project 2006 overall was a success. It takes a lot of work and organization but the profile, interest and awareness it raised in the sport in all circles certainly made it worthwhile. Hockey within Queensland, this project and the Remote Program were all highlighted in press releases coming out of Canberra and I am advised that this project will also be mentioned in the 2006 Department Report.

A sincere thanks to the committed people in all the relevant centres who assisted in putting this project together. Congratulations to all the winners and if you get a chance - catch the Mackay Association DVD it is inspirational



Julie McNeil speaking at a Harmony Day function

Remote and Indigenous Communities
Hockey Development Program

Web Site

It was imperative to the continuing development of the Program to access improved communication. It was identified and included in the 2006 Operational plan of this Program to have the Remote Hockey Website active in 2006 and I am pleased to say that we have achieved this.

From the feedback we receive from communities, the website is accessed regularly and it for this reason it will become an integral part of our program as a tool for development as well as communication.

The site address is www.hockeyqld.com.au and follow the link to Remote Hockey.

I need you to copy the home page here some how.

Participation and Competition

Cooktown Region



The Cooktown cluster is comprised of communities –

Laura State School is situated in the indigenous community of Laura and is the smallest of the schools in the region. The school on most occasions has about a dozen students inclusive of grades 1 through to 7. Due to the small number we include all the students in one hockey session and we ourselves take on a more interactive role than we would at a much larger school i.e. we participate in the games more so than at a school with enough students to conduct a proper modified game. These are very small communities – sometimes under 50 people in the whole community.

Lakeland State School has a mostly non-indigenous population of about 20 students. As with Laura we include all students from grade 1 to 7 in one hockey session. If there are two presenters we sometimes divide the students into a group of juniors and a group of seniors then we conduct the two groups separately before combining them at the end of the session for an all inclusive game e.g. Dog n Bone. If there is only one presenter we conduct a session with all the students and obviously modify the session to cater for all the age groups.

Bloomfield River State School has a large percentage of indigenous students and many of them are local to the indigenous community of Wujal Wujal. This is one of the larger schools in the region and we normally run about four sessions each with a different class. We have been targeting grades 4 to 7 in our program however in 2006 the younger students at Bloomfield have been included, this is due to the enthusiastic response from the Principal whom requested the inclusion of the younger students.

Rossville State School in the past this school has been difficult to include with our regional visits mostly due to the school's curriculum and timetable. We have of course made visits to the school and when the school is able to fit our visits in the students are amongst the most enthusiastic in the region. Rossville has a small mostly non-indigenous population and we normally conduct just the one session when we make a visit. A point of interest is in 2005 out of all the Cooktown Cluster schools, Rossville participated in the least amount of hockey throughout the year however they still won our annual Cooktown Cup.

Hopevale State School is situated in the indigenous community of Hopevale and is the second largest school in the Cooktown Cluster. We normally conduct about four sessions at the school usually only including grades 4 to 7 depending on the school's preferences.

Cooktown State School is situated in the largest community within this region. It has the largest student involvement and the greatest availability of resources although in reality these resources are quite negligible. The facilities we have to work with in this region are less than acceptable for all concerned. The grass fields are not flat. In 2006, the community is becoming a little more proactive in this area however one

must point out that the community as a whole in this area does not have a great deal of interest in organized sports.

Logistically the Cooktown Cluster is almost ideal for inter-community events and is quite accessible by road from Cairns.

It has been difficult getting a sustainable hockey program into the region particularly one that can be run at least semi-independent of our supervision. Everything that has been done in the past has been directly run by someone from the Remote and Indigenous program. In short as soon as we leave the hockey stops. The Cooktown Cluster is a conundrum. There are of course those who are keen to get hockey going but most of these people are unable to run anything themselves, for various legitimate reasons.

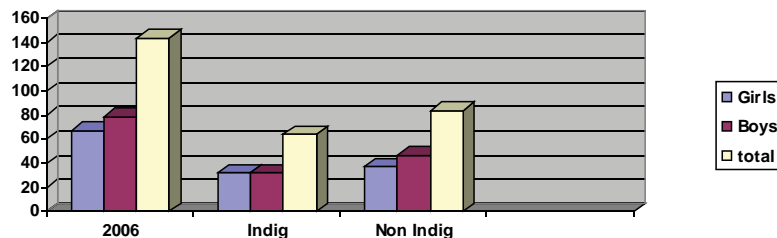
We have tried a number of avenues including the PCYC in Wujal Wujal and coaching clinics in Cooktown however the only constant success we have had is through the schools. Each year we make several visits to each school and conduct hockey sessions which culminate in an inter-school hockey carnival based in Cooktown known as the Cooktown Cup. The Cooktown Cup has been quite a success with interest in the competition growing each year. Our commitment to this region is a real one and we have had real success in the small communities of Bloomfield River and Rossville.

It is the opportunities we offer these communities that is of real significance. The lack of adult interest in any organized competition has left the young people of these communities without the skills and those intangible life qualities you learn when you become a member of a team. This program offers these opportunities and more. As we have mentioned numerous times – it is not always out just playing Hockey – it is what the sport of Hockey can offer.

Cooktown school students participate in school clinics



Here are some statistics for 2006 that this Program Produced in the Cooktown Area



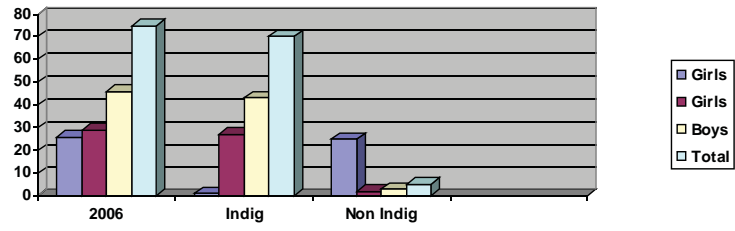
Participation and Competition

Lockhart River Community



The Lockhart River Community is one of the more Remote Communities we deliver to in our Program. There are some social and cultural issues that need to be carefully addressed in this community however it is important that you understand what it is like to run and administer programs in these Remote Communities. In 2006 the Lockhart Program was successful and the community welcomed our involvement in community. We hope that reading through these highlighted points you come to understand a little about the community and what it takes for our program to deliver into it.

- The Lockhart Community is one of the largest indigenous community
- The school is mostly indigenous with only a few white students
- The school goes up to grade 7/8
- This is a strong football community with the local mainly supporting their football club.
- The community does have a Sport and Recreation Officer but that person cannot be contacted on many occasions due to person difficulties and also community communication difficulties. It is very difficult to plan in advance any community activities.
- The community as a whole is working through problems with the alcohol restrictions and the community elders are taking a proactive role but it is a big job..
- These problems have manifested in riots and fights and the cause is the social problems associated with boredom and alcohol abuse. We need to be careful when we plan our trips and of course when we are there.
- We work with the local school to run clinics during the day and they are very helpful in getting sports up and looking after them.
- The majority of the students that do want to participate in these clinics are very helpfully and willing to give it a go. Because of the real lack of role models here the young people can be very erratic in their behaviour but we have found that working them in the clinics has been a success.
- We are working with the teachers in running some clinics after school and hoping to get some programs started. We have to be proactive as the community Sport and rec Officer is not providing adequate direction at the moment.
- We are working with the school to bring a Lockhart team down to compete at the Cooktown carnival within the next 2 years.
- A major cultural issue we face in indigenous communities but in particular we have faced in Lockhart in 2006 is the town will completely shut down for a funeral and also many kids do not attend school on this day and a number of days thereafter. So it is always good to ring before you arrive to see how the community is going and if it is suitable for you to head up. Schedules need to be flexible for this reason.
- Once again with Lockhart we mainly fly up there as it works out easier and cheaper. During the wet season you cannot drive up due to the roads being cut off by the floods.



Lockhart River Clinics



Participation and Competition

Weipa Community



Our Program has taken some time to develop into the Weipa community however in 2006 we made substantial progress. There are social hockey competitions forming within the community in the main playing indoors due to the restrictions in facilities however we are working with members of the community to look at ways we can assist. Here is more information of this Remote Community and how the Remote Program has made progressions to assist the development of a hockey program in this community :

- Weipa is a large mining community
- It has a Primary and Secondary School
- The community has a diversity of White, aboriginal and Asian students
- It has a lot of miner's families and miners themselves.
- We are fortunate with the larger population we have the option of starting hockey games and clinics on a weekly basis.
- We have a few ex hockey players that now live up in Weipa and we have assisted them to start hockey up there and now there will be a person based up there to run the programs.
- The town has a footy oval that is currently being used but they are looking to mark out their own field just for hockey. They are looking to make hockey nets.
- There is the opportunity for community support and we are assisting in that regard.
- With the interest growing you will have the opportunity to run level 1 course and getting parents or locals trained up.
- At the moment it is largely a League and AFL Territory but with the town growing there will be opportunities to start running program or games as not everyone is interested in these 2 sports.
- They are hoping in the future they will have their own field.
- We always attend the croc festival every second year up there and will see around 1000 kids over 3 days. In 2006 we were again invited to the Croc Fest where we introduced Rooky Hockey.

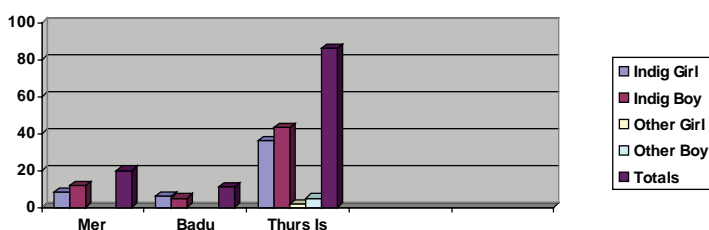


Participation and Competition

Torres Strait Community



- Thursday Island is largest and populated island.
- The Islander Locals are friendly and polite when visiting.
- Once again it is mainly a islander/aboriginal population.
- Thursday Island has 3 schools 1. Thursday Island Secondary School. 2. T.I Primary School 3. St Hearts Catholic School
- It has a large League following out this way. Almost every island has a local football team.
- We are again fortunate to have a former hockey player now working in Thursday Island and a physical education teacher being transferred up to Thursday Island from Karumba in 2007. This is of great benefit when looking to get programs off the ground..
- Thursday Island has a small town centre but you can buy almost everything but once again be prepared to pay a high price.
- On the island they have a large indoor sports centre, swimming pool, football field, basketball courts and another footy oval.
- The sport and rec officers are helpful and are willing to give a sport a go and running programs. It is always a good idea to call them before the trips as they will assist and help set up activities.
- The majority of the students are well behaved and I have found these kids on the islands are very easy to work with and are very friendly with you.
- The island has plenty off accommodation with a lot of pubs and hotels.
- We have started to expand throughout the Islands and a program has begun on Moa Island, a very small Island in the Torres Strait.

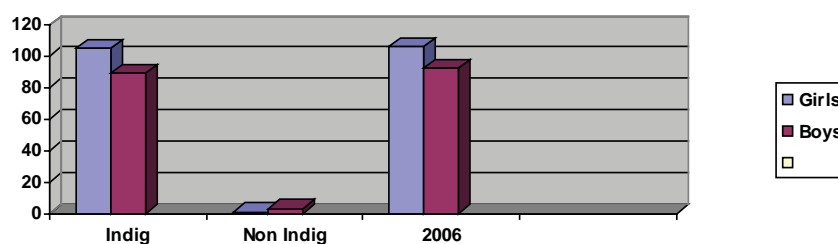


Participation and Competition

Palm Island Community



- The Community has 2 schools located on the island
 1. Bwngcolman Community School
 2. St Michaels Catholic School
- It is largely a Aboriginal community
- Is has a new PCYC building that we use most of the time now.
- We have 2 coaches at St Michaels school that participated in a level 1 course.
- The discipline at these schools can range from age to age. You really must be on your toes here as it is a very unique community.
- We have found that interaction is the key. The more you have a chat with them during the days they will gradually respect you and what you are trying to do.
- Depending on the students we mainly use plastic hockey sticks with them for safety and until they learn a bit more about the game and rules.
- Clinics were conducted at the local PCYC stadium, which is quite a magnificent facility. Classes attending varied in size however catered the following age groups;
Classes 3 – 4, 4 – 5, High school.
- As always, the challenge with these clinics is getting the participants to “the game”. On a number of occasions the participants would arrive with anything but an enthusiastic attitude, however once they started playing all was great.
- Clinics were organised by Hugh O’Toole, physical education teacher for both the state and private school and his assistance was greatly appreciated.
- The community in general showed they were very appreciative of our visits and we will continue to develop this program and foster pathways in consultation with community.



Participation and Competition

Gulf Savannah Communities



Normanton:

- G.S.R.A (Gulf Schools Recreation Association) is located here at the Sports House. They provide the programme free accommodation upstairs in Sports House and access to office facilities downstairs.
- There are 2 Schools
 1. Normanton State School
 2. Gulf Christian School
- This community is the largest in the Gulf and it is where the Carpentaria Shire Council is located. The population is equally indigenous and non indigenous.
- We organize all the trips with G.S.R.A for the year so we don't clash with any other sporting groups
- You have a wide range of kids here as it's indigenous and non indigenous. We offer a range of programs from Primary School to the High School and the After School programs.
- In Normanton, there are young people who wish to have specialized hockey training and we help with this hockey training during the week.
- While we are out there we try and assist with anything we can while we are there including coaching courses, clinics, advanced coaching and training, active after school programs etc
- Normanton has a registered hockey club; they have a sign on day ever year and organize games between other towns and teams.
- With assistance from parents in the community you can get lucky some days and other you will find it hard for some assistance. We would normally have a core of 3-5 parents that will assist for the majority of the year.
- We would run a coaching course every year and have follow up clinics with the coaches during the year or the following year.
- These are modified level 1 courses we only concentrate on areas of concern for teaching hockey in the Gulf. We look at coaching the basic skills and rules to get them started.
- Normanton has a large in-door complex which is suitable and big enough to run hockey inside. It can get a bit hot out there so this is perfect to run something inside and it's a bit cooler as well. Outside the complex they have a large swimming pool and barbeque area (good for functions or camps). And also 2 tennis courts another area you can set up if the oval or indoor centre is being used. The hockey field/ footy field are located next to indoor centre so this is used and packed everyday with kids. It is very important to work with the facilities and the climate conditions.

Karumba

- Is a small community just 45 min drive from Normanton?
- It is mainly a white community with the majority of locals being fisherman/trawler man.
- It is a community where you can find help from all the local parents and teachers.
- Karumba has also got a registered hockey club and has around 25 kids registered.
- It has the only 1 school Karumba State School. With grades Pre-school – Year 7.
- Every year they hold the Annual Hockey and Basketball carnival. This is the largest and biggest hockey event for the year in the Gulf. We select our Under 13 Boys and Girls Gulf Savannah team from this carnival.
- The local parents are really supportive and will assist in any way or form. We would always get a good turn out of coaches for a level 1 course.
- Karumba has the large indoor facility as well with a basketball court outside which is also suitable for hockey.
- The school has an oval which is normally kept in good condition and has 2 standard hockey goals. These are left at the school.
- Once again we work with the school on when we are coming out and what times we run the sessions. It's a small school so they are flexible most of the time and we work around their timetable or any other event they may have on.
- The students are mostly white here, and so the participation and attitudes are really excellent here. Most of the students will give it a go and want to learn more about the game.



Karumba Hockey Club runners up at the 2006 Karumba Hockey Festival

Mornington Island

- This Remote Community Is half an hour flight from Karumba, it is located in the Gulf of Carpentaria.
- This is largely an Indigenous population
- It only has the 1 school: Mornington Island State School
- It also has a large indoor sports centre which is run by a sport and rec officer.
- This community is one of the most difficult we visit for a variety of reasons. As in many communities within Queensland, there are many social issues that place pressures on young people and here on Mornington, as it is an Island, there is no where to go to escape these pressures. The result is lack of discipline, boredom and a sense of despair in most cases.
- We work with the school to run session during the day and then contact the sport and rec officer to run some after school programs at the centre.
- The only place to stay is at the cottage at the school. The centre is also located at the school so everything is together.
- They only have a small shop and take away and this is only place to get food. The

shops shut early so you have to get in early if you need dinner. Food is very expensive out here.

- We are trying to get them to run hooked into hockey programs but most of the time it is hard keeping the children motivated week after week.
- There is a lot of potential here as most of these kids have a lot of talent and skill. The lack of self worth amongst the young people in this community is the biggest challenge and one that requires to into take account of many issues. We work together with community and look to provide what oppportunities we can in the circumstances. Patience is the key here. We work with the Sport and Rec Officer where ever possible.

Doomadgee

- A large indigenou community
- The population is mainly indigenou
- The school caters for Pre School – Year 7/8
- The only accommodation is the school cottage.
- There is similar issues here as in Mornington Island.
- The social problems manifest in substance abuse and violence within the young people and it is importance to work with the Sport and Rec Officer here.
- We work again with the school to organize hockey clinics at the school during the day and then contact the local sport and rec officer to run some after school activities.
- We are finding that currently some members of the community and teachers are supportive of the hockey program and this is making a difference. Unfortunately there is little motivation from the community as it is focussed on Rugby League and they are very successful in the competitions they participate in.
- The community themselves do not cater for anything other than League however we are finding that there are young people in the communities that wish to participate in activities not being league and this is where our program seems to fit in.
- We have only been delivering programs ere for a short while so we need to be patient.



Members of the Doomadgee Hockey Team

Burketown

- This is a very small community located between Doomadgee and Normanton.
- It has a very small school and with a low number of students.
- There is no sport and rec officer here so we only deal with the school.
- It only has a pub and a couple of shops here (just the basics)
- Can be shut off to the rest of the gulf during the wet for months. So do not drive when wet as it can get flooded easy here?
- Being a small town it is hard to get a sport going as there is not enough population to play a lot of sports here. There are only enough for 1 or 2 sports here. Fishing is 1 of these sports here.
- The most practical approach is to look at a small competition between Burketown and Doomadgee but this will take some organization.

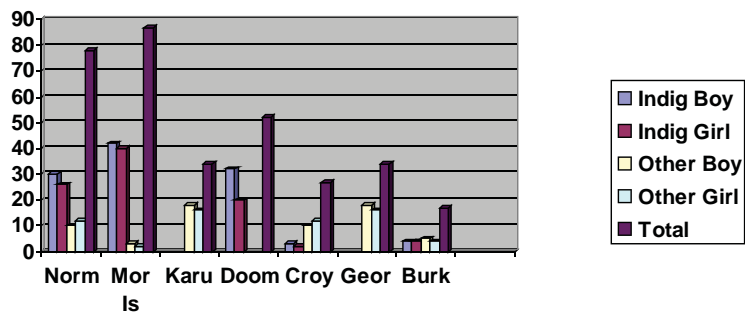
Croydon

- Is a very small community located 1 and half hours south of Normanton?
- It only has a very small school and the classes are split up into groups eg: Pre – year 1, Year 2, 3, 4 Year 5, 6, 7. The school totals around 50 children.
- They have a small indoor centre which is turfed and you can play a small game of hockey on it.
- The students are mostly non indigenous here with the parents being farmers on properties around the town.
- This is a very helpful community with a lot of the local helping out with anything that happens here.
- The sport and rec officer is helpful here the majority of the time.
- He has obtained his level 1 certificate. We would always have a good turn out for level 1 course.
- The town has a dam and is very good to take the kids for a swim and play.
- The Croydon pub is the best and only place to stay here. Brent who owns it is an ex hockey player so will look after us and also help with the hockey out this way.
- You will also find a number of children out on properties that do distance education at home and get to miss out of hockey at school. So we notify any parents and teachers when we arrive so the kids on the properties can come to school for the day.

Georgetown

- Another small community which is mostly a non indigenous community with the parents again being farmers on surrounding properties.
- It has a large school again with Pre- Grade 8
- The students are very keen to learn about hockey with an active hockey program in existence.
- We have a level 1 coach here. Karen Butler is doing a lot for this community such as: Getting Goal Boxes made and delivered, marking out a hockey field, running hockey clinics and games.
- The interest is growing here with more kids willing to try the game.
- The community as a whole is really supportive of these children and will assist with anything they can.
- The local oval is looked after and kept in good condition and has the room for a hockey field.
- We hold our training camps and clinics for the Gulf boys and Girls teams here.

Georgetown Hockey Club winners of the Karumba Hockey Festival 2006



Under 13 Boys and Girls to State Championships

A targeted outcome in this Program is access to opportunities through pathways created by assisting young people to attend competitions such as State Championships. In 2006 we have been able to provide pathways for boys and girls.

The Gulf selected Under 13 teams to attend the Hockey Queensland Boys and Girls State Under 13 Hockey Championships in Atherton and Hervey Bay respectively and this program assisted in the preparation of the squad and the coaching of the teams at the said championships.

We often speak of opportunities for young people but these pathways also provide opportunities for parents and community as well as opportunities for coaches.



Hervey Bay – Under 13 Girls

- This is the 3rd year the Gulf Girls team attended
- Michael Robertson, the program's indigenous trainee was the team coach
- Members of the Gulf Team came from various communities within the Gulf Savannah
- Members of Hervey Bay Hockey provided a number of young hockey players to play with the Gulf side to allow the team to have adequate substitutions.
- This was a positive experience and the Hervey Bay community welcomed the Gulf team and from the championships, the girls return more self confident, with a greater understanding of the game, and an enthusiasm to continue to participate and meet new friends and have new experiences through hockey. This is such an important outcome for our Program.

Atherton – Under 13 Boys



- After 5 years of development, the Gulf Boys team attended their first State Championship.
- Unfortunately this Championship was not completed but it did not worry the Gulf team.
- The Gulf team scored some goals, began to understand what it means to compete at a championship, be part of a team, work as a team even in the hardest of conditions.
- From attending this championship, the boys came back with enthusiasm and a greater understanding of the possibilities of what participating in sport can mean. This was the message they passed on in their respective communities.
- In some cases, we had some young people wanting to ensure that they continue their hockey when they go to boarding school and put pressure on their parents to change boarding schools to make happen. .
- The longer we can provide these opportunities, the louder the message will be back in the communities.

Competitions and Community Partnerships

The Active After School Care Program which began in 2005 has grown in 2006 and I am very happy to announce that the AASC Program will be a very supportive Community Partner in 2007. The partnership presently covers areas in the Torres Strait and Gulf Savannah and we hope in 2007 to extend this relationship.

With our long standing partner GSRA Inc we have combined with AASC Programs and have looked to provide the people who will be delivering the hockey programs in the respective communities with a modified education and training package. We have also looked to provide the Hookin2 Hockey as the program to be delivered and where necessary to make the necessary modifications to reflect the needs of each community.

Although we look to assess each program – we believe this will be a positive program and one that has long term benefits provided all parties involved recognize that each community has unique needs and we must be flexible with the program to meet these needs.

I would like to offer my sincere thanks to the members of each community, GSRA Inc and the members of the Active After School Care Team that came to the Karumba Carnival and assisted. A special thanks to Katie Allen who worked with the young people in Karumba. A special thanks to Hockey Queensland Board Member – Brian Fitzpatrick who took the time to travel to Karumba in 2006 and participate.

Karumba Hockey Festival 2006 continues to be a success for our program. It shows that with patience and a sound program, hockey has developed and continues to develop to be sustainable in the most remote regions of Queensland.

Parents now travel to watch their children play hockey during this weekend. This was something unheard of only 2 years ago. During the finals this year we had a group of parents from Karumba (a fishing community) on the side line supporting their children and on the opposite sideline we had a group of parents from Georgetown (a cattle community these parents would have travelled at least 6 hours some much more).

The skills shown by some of the young people are now those recognizable as real hockey skills regardless of the conditions. These young people have seized the opportunity to play hockey and through the support of the community, schools and GSRA, the sport is very slowly developing and the opportunities we speak of so often as taking shape.

Karumba Parents supporters in 2006



Katie Allen in Karumba in 2006



We continue to work with GSRA and the communities to select teams for 2007 State Championships. All Gulf Squads can be found on the web together with photos of the 2006 Karumba Hockey Festival and all Festival details. www.hockeyqld.com.au then look for the link to Remote Hockey.

Remote Women's Mentor Program

This Program identified very early that women in remote communities were in many cases the foundation on which the longer term sustainability of the sport relies. This Program further identified that support and assistance was crucial to these women if the foundations were to remain strong and solid.

With the support of the Department of Sport and Recreation and the Board of Hockey Queensland, this Program set about looking to identify and work with women in the remote communities to offer a mentoring program which would offer support and assistance to those women in the Program and recruit and encourage more women into the hockey program.

In 2006 we looked to conduct a workshop in association with Gulf Sport and Recreation Association Inc to discuss a variety of issues. This workshop was an overwhelming success. A separate report on the workshop has been completed however I will highlight here the salient points raised:-

- Over 15 women attended from Mount Isa to Townsville and north to Kowanyama.
- The workshop was held in Normanton and supported by the Carpentaria Shire Council, Etheridge Shire Council
- It was held in conjunction with the Gulf Sport and Recreation Conference
- Issues raised included communication, resources, working together in communities rather than working against one another.
- A number of outcomes were identified including – better access to communication within communities, better ways to identify the resources needed to assist, how the women can assist each other in each community.
- This was a start we made progress and our program also recruited 2 more women from communities that did not have a hockey program prior to the conference starting.
- We planned actions for 2007 which should have an impact through the whole of the program.

Women attending the conference



Hookin2 Hockey resource material at the conference



Education and Training Programs

Cairns Tafe

In 2006 we strengthened our relationship with Cairns Tafe and it has proved to be a mutually beneficial one. The Department of Indigenous Studies delivers courses in Community Recreation and Sport and Recreation and as part of these course we assist in some coach education and training.

- Students are trained in an introduction to hockey
- In 2006 we have been introducing the students to the Rooky Hockey and Hook in2 Hockey Programs
- On request – modified level 1 courses are undertaken by the students

As Hockey is becoming more and more popular with the students in the course and as it is now becoming known in the communities, the Hookin2 Hockey program in 2007 will be offered as a choice as part of an assessment for the students. Prior to 2007, an AusKick program was offered or a Modified league program was offered. We are now on the same terms. As far as our program is concerned, this is a large step forward.

From these courses, Rooky Hockey and Hook in2 Hockey programs have started in communities in the Torres Strait.

Development Officer Course

Hockey Queensland will have a Development Officer Course and as part of this course, units will be able delivered in grades 11 and 12 as part of the new school education process.

We are developing this course and including in this course will be units that have been developed exclusively by the Remote program and the members of the remote communities dealing with combining sport and culture- introducing sport into these regions and Hockey Art.

In the early part of 2007 we should really see progress on this part of the course and the registration process. We have many people to thank for their support of this project thus far in particular Sport and Recreation Queensland and those members of the communities that have shared their knowledge.

We want this to be an exciting course and one that can be productive not only in the north but across the state and across sports. This will be achieved but patience is the key like so many projects in this Program but it will be a positive and long tem benefit to the organization.

Coach/Umpire Education and Training

We continue our coach and umpire education and training in the remote communities. I would like to offer my sincere thanks to Brisbane Women's Hockey Association for their assistance in 2006 especially with the Umpire education.

As a result, in 2006 we have been able to educate a total of

Coaches	8
Umpires	10

We have also been able to update the existing coach education for the 10 already accredited coaches in the regions.

We have looked to develop a modified course that incorporates coach and umpire education. We believe that in the circumstances existing in the communities and resources that we have at our disposal, we can adequately deliver this type of program and then update the education of each visit.

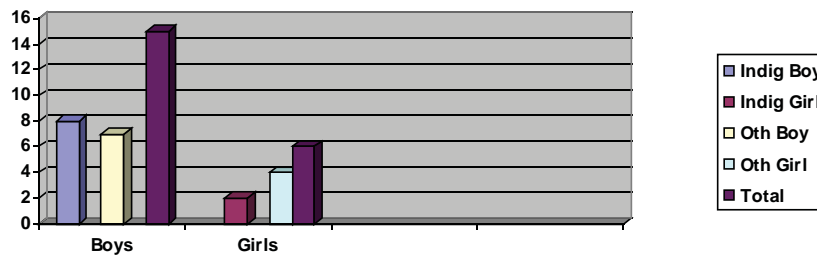
New Developments

Kuranda State School

Although very close to the Cairns community – the Kuranda State School joined our Program in 2006. At the Cairns Challenge in February 2006, the school came down and clinics were run and we would like to thank members of the Qld Academy of Sport Regional Squad who participated in clinics with these young people.

The benefits the young people received from these clinics were without question invaluable and highlighted what this program can achieve. The young people came away with a greater sense of self confidence, self worth and in many cases, being proud that they mastered a skill and received praise from these Academy players.

Qld Academy Sport Regional Squad Athletes assisting the Kuranda School children in clinics



Hockey Art

In 2006 the Hockey Art program expanded to encompass not only the beautifully crafted Hockey Sticks and Balls from our artists but also we explored bringing the concept of combining sport and culture into the general hockey population with the Harmony day Project.

We encouraged the Art to be on Hockey Equipment and as a first attempt into the general Hockey Community we also encouraged the young people to deliver their message in the art via the sport through a banner if that was less imposing.



This is an example of the Hockey Art created by the young people of Brisbane Women's Hockey Association in March 2006.

We also had Hockey Art in Karumba, Mackay and in the Torres Strait.

In addition, the Queensland Government is developing a new Indigenous Sports Unit and this Program has been invited to produce some Hockey Art to present to the minister at the opening of the Unit. This is a great opportunity.

We have also during the course of the year been contact by members of the public to purchase items of artwork. Kevin Edmonstone is the artist in Cairns that works closely with our program and undertakes these works.



Our relationship with Just Hockey remains strong and is built on mutual respect. The assistance that Lance and his team offer our Program is invaluable. Together we look forward to developing further relationships and opportunities for us both.

Conclusion

“SMALL STEPS PHILOSOPHY”

The underlying principle which supports all plans, programs and strategies of the Hockey Queensland Remote and Indigenous Communities Hockey Development Program is the cornerstone philosophy of **SMALL STEPS**.

SMALL STEPS is a simple statement which reflects the very complex issue of identify, developing, advancing and sustaining relationships that in reality make the difference between the success or otherwise of any potential program.

Understanding and respect is what we strive to build when we take our **SMALL STEPS**. Whether we are working in the areas of skill based programs, talent identification pathways and opportunities, education and training or planning community competitions, the ability or capability our this program to deliver a particular service is underpinned by these relationships.

Above all else, we look towards creating and launching opportunities for community and community members through this program. We seek to build platforms to sustain these programs through relationships and we would like to think that the unique fabric that sets this program apart is our respect of the land, the people and the culture.

The greatest ability is to make a difference and if you are involved in this program you have a chance to make a difference to some-one, some-where. The young people we deal with will be the one's that ultimately change the communities in which they live and if we provide optimism and opportunity, self confidence and self worth, we have the ability to make a difference.

That is why this program is not just about teaching people about hockey skills. It is about opportunities for learning these new skills, showing they can be very good at some new skill and convincing these young people they can be good at other things too. The young people in this program learn to be healthy and disciplined, learn about what it means to be a member of a team, sportsmanship and leadership. This program opens minds to the possibility of greater opportunities, pathways and competitions throughout the State.

The program confirms you can be proud of your culture and through the Hockey Art we promote this. We support that fact that sport and culture can combine and young people can be proud of whatever culture and community they come from and still play hockey even in the more remote communities.

The more success we achieve the more challenges we create for ourselves and the Program. 2007 looks full of possibilities for the program and can be all about fulfilling potential.

There is much to do and planning is the key now more than ever.

I hope this report has inspired you just a little – you might ask what inspires us we only have to look at a picture like this and it makes what we do all worthwhile

Mornington Island young girls active in the Hockey Program



