

HOCKEY QUEENSLAND
Remote & Indigenous
Hockey Development Program



2008 REPORT



Hockey Queensland

Remote and Indigenous Hockey Development Program

2008 Annual Report



Joyce Sebasio – Accredited Coach from Bamaga

We would like to acknowledge the support and assistance of the following:-

Australian Sports Commission
Queensland Government
Hockey Australia
GSRA Inc, Tagai College, TSYRSA, Cairns Hockey Association Inc,
Tropical North Queensland Tafe,
Just Hockey

From its inception the Remote and Indigenous Hockey Development Program has had a clear vision

Vision

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

With this vision leading the way – we have striven to identify partnerships with organizations that can assist in delivering programs which ultimately look to strive to achieve the outcomes we are looking for.

We look to develop programs that ultimately provide the young people in remote and indigenous communities the skills to make choices and with our project partners we look to assist in offering opportunities.

We are the fortunate ones. We know from experience that making the choice that is the best for you is not an easy one and more often than not we have had the opportunity of life experiences to call upon, we are confident in our ability to make decisions and we are confident in our own self.

What about some of the youth in the remote communities that have had little life experience, have little confidence in their own ability to make the appropriate choice because they have had little confidence in themselves. These are the young people we wish to provide the opportunities to. We are not merely a sports program. We are so much more – Our program covers areas of self esteem, self discipline, self confidence, learning new skills, leadership, health and nutrition, mentoring, education and training, creating new programs to suit community needs, culture and sport programs. We wish to offer a holistic approach so we know that when the young person is ready to make the choices – they are as prepared as they can be.

Our main Program Partners – Gulf Sport and Recreation Association Inc assists us in the communities in far north west Queensland and Tagai State College assists us in the area of the far northern Cape region and the communities of the Torres Strait.

In developing our partnerships, we have looked to develop programs covering 4 basic areas:-

- Active participation
- Skills development
- Facilities and equipment
- Community engagement

We have chosen to report on the work we have undertaken using these 4 basic areas and we hope that it will better outline what we are looking to achieve and how our partners and supporters of the program assist us in delivering and striving for the outcomes which in reality give the young people in the Remote and Indigenous Communities the opportunity and the skills to be the best they can be.

Julie McNeil
Program Manager

Summary

“Strength behind the Remote Program”

The starting point of great success and achievement has always been the same. It is to dream big dreams. There is nothing more important, and nothing that works faster than to cast off your own limitations and to begin dreaming and fantasizing about the wonderful things that you can become, have, and do.

In reality, when you look closely at the Remote Program, it has a vast geographical area in which it successfully delivers programs with a minimal budget. The logistical issues of transport over these vast distances, issues of risk management, equipment and facilities may at first instance look imposing, while issues such as development of education and training as well as participation and competition programs that look to take into account environment, culture and facilities might well be to some overwhelming.

So to be able to dream big, strategize in a practical manner and deliver the program despite these logistical and budget constraints is one of the Programs great strengths. This year our programs include:-

- (a) The Culture and Sport/Hockey combining in the Q150 Project – where in the Torres Strait and NPA in association with Tagai College and Torres Strait Youth and Recreation Sports Association a number of culturally significant stories over the past 150 years will be identified and painted on hockey sticks and then transferred onto DVD and booklets for presentation to the community.
- (b) The development and delivery of a new Remote Hockey Coaching Course
- (c) The new and updated Remote Hockey Web Site
- (d) The new partnerships and hockey programs in the Torres Strait and Northern Peninsula Area
- (e) Fresh hockey programs are being reviewed and developed in the Gulf Savannah including the new Youth Gulf Hockey Competition
- (f) Development of Remote Hockey Development Officer Course

There are many different types of partnerships – economic, strategic and holistic. Our program calls upon all three and probably many more to ensure we provide the greatest opportunities and this is a further strength of the Program.

Our Program partners include, Gulf Sport and Recreation Association Inc, Tagai College, Torres Strait Youth and Recreation Association Inc, Active After School Sports Program, Qld Government through Sport and Recreation Queensland and Q150 Celebrations, Australian Sports Commission – Indigenous Sports Program, Hockey Australia, Just Hockey and Cairns Hockey Association.

In this Program whichever course you may decide to take, there could be someone telling you that you're wrong. There are always difficulties that tempt you to believe your critics might be right. To map out a course of action and follow it to an end requires courage. It takes the brave men and women associated with the Program to see through these projects and programs despite any pitfalls and adversities and ultimately succeed. These people are our greatest strength.

The Remote Program is currently developing and advancing and as it does it will continue to face new and exciting challenges – we are ready

All our dreams can come true - if we have the courage to pursue them.
Walt Disney

2008 Active Participation Programs

Healthy Active Murri Kids Event

The Remote and Indigenous Program has developed and continues to develop opportunities for Indigenous young people. To this end we were contacted for the first time by the Healthy Active Murri Kids through the Department of Families. This event was held in Brisbane, the first at the Murri school Acacia Ridge and the second was postponed due to inclement weather.

One of the main aims of being involved in this Program is to expose young people to the sport of hockey by offering them all day clinics of small drills and mini games. We provide information of hockey clubs in their area if any show interest.

On average the Program gets to see around 40-50 indigenous young people in these clinics and we believe that there is great opportunity to partner with Brisbane Women's Hockey and Brisbane Hockey in the future to ensure that the indigenous community in the Brisbane area is serviced and opportunities are taken.



Invitations have been extended to conduct further Programs around the Brisbane Metropolitan area for the later part of 2008. We are hoping it will continue in 2009 and we look forward to strengthening our partnership with this organisation to encourage more indigenous young people to play hockey in and around Brisbane.

2008 Active Participation Programs Hookin2 Hockey Programs in the Remote Communities



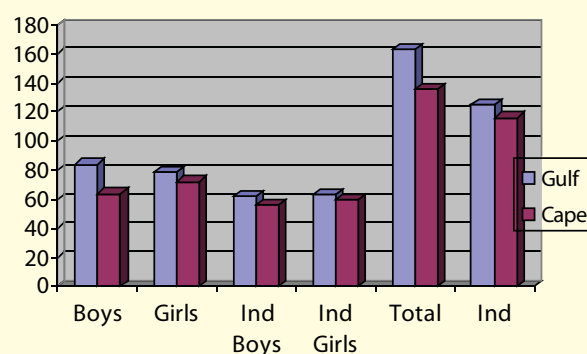
The cornerstone of our Active Participation Programs is the national hockey initiative – Hookin2Hockey. To ensure that the most is obtained from the limited resources our program has at its disposal, we try to develop partnerships to extend the benefits of this active participation well into the community.

To this end, we have partnered with Active After School Programs, Vacation Care programs and other community programs both in the Torres Strait and the Gulf Savannah area. Our main delivery partner in the Gulf is Gulf Sport and Recreation Association Inc while our partner in the Cape is Tagai College.

The skills set developed from being involved in this program include:-

- Learning new skills
- Participating in modified competition
- Understanding life skills associated with being part of a team
- Self discipline and self respect
- Health and fitness
- Fun and friendship

From these basic programs we develop and run advanced coaching education and mentoring programs which are designed to have substantially more impact on the adult population. The Hookin2Hockey Programs is designed for young people to begin their journey with the sport of hockey.



Pictorial of Active Participation 2008

Yesterday is history. Tomorrow is a mystery And today?
Today is a gift. That's why we call it the present.
-Babatunde Olatunji



Skills Development- The New Remote Hockey Coaching Course

For some time, it has been identified that the education and training components of the Program must take into account the extra ordinary circumstances relating to the people who will be delivering the hockey programs in the Remote communities. To this end we have looked to modify and develop a hockey coaching course that incorporates all the necessary elements but accounts for the unique conditions, facilities and cultures.



In 2008 we identified that many components of a traditional coaching course was not relevant to the facilities, program and delivery of the hockey in the remote communities and as a result we looked to modify those aspects of the course and replaced components which included –

- Risk management components relevant to remote communities
- Teaching hockey skills modified to suit the facilities in the remote communities
- Modifying the competition structure to suit the needs of the remote communities

Modification of the Program does not mean we were relaxing the standard of the coaching accreditation merely recognizing that the type of skills required to be coached are different.

6 people were accredited in the first instance and we are conducting a second course in December 2008 in partnership with Torres Strait Youth Recreation Sport Association where all Sport and Recreation Officers in the Torres Strait will undergo this education and training in preparation of delivering the hockey program in 2009. We estimate an additional 10 coaches will be accredited by the end of 2008.

We will be undertaking this program in partnership with the Women Sports leadership Program and a number of women will join this program and gain education and training. Coaching will be included in this program.

Part of this program is conducted on line however the practical aspects of the course will be undertaken at a workshop. The balance between on line and face to face contact allows us to ensure we have quality control over the standard of the course and the coaches that are being accredited. We also take the opportunity to discuss aspects of the program with the participants and ensure the coaches are comfortable with their roles and detail any uncertainty to ensure a consistent approach across the program.

Case Studies – from Hockey Australia website Hockey Ed Beginner Coach group session in Cairns

A group HockeyEd Beginner Coach program was recently held in Cairns during the Kookaburras Four Test Series against Korea. The Beginner Coach session was run in conjunction with Hockey Queensland's Remote Hockey Coaching Course by Hockey Queensland with the assistance of David McNeil, former Coaching and Development Manager and Joe Kelly, Hockey Australia's National Indigenous Talent Identification Coordinator.

The remote Hockey Coaching Course was designed for both indigenous and non indigenous participants. Program manager, Julie McNeil said that the Remote and Indigenous Hockey Program recognizes and respects the uniqueness of the environment, culture and facilities that coaches might find themselves in the remote and indigenous communities and as a result it was important to develop and deliver a Coaching Course that encapsulates this.



The morning consisted of the theory component of the HockeyEd Beginner Coach program, with the online training program being viewed by all participants and videos from the training utilised. As there were some people in the group who had played hockey before and others who had no previous hockey experience, as a group participants discussed each section before completing the online quiz. The practical evaluation component was organised into two parts in the afternoon. There were scenarios where the coaches coached a training session and match coaching conducted during the Primary Schools State Championships.

Julie McNeil the Program Manager said "All participants advised us that it (the remote hockey coaching course) was one of the best coaching courses from any sports they had attended and I am sure that was because they could cover all aspects of the course including the theory and practical aspects at the one time and had the opportunity of discussing as a group any issues. "They have plans to deliver additional courses to all the Sport and Recreation Officers through-out the Torres Strait and Northern Peninsula Area communities in the very near future.

For further information and assistance with running a HockeyEd accreditation training session with a group please contact your State/ Territory Association or Hockey Australia HockeyEd@hockey.org.au.

Alternatively if you wish to know more about the Remote Hockey Coaching Course contact Julie McNeil at julie.mcneil4@bigpond.com.

2008 Skills Development- Karumba Hockey Carnival

Karumba Hockey Festival is the culmination and showcase of the hockey program in the Gulf Savannah. During 2008 there has been a number of highs and lows however the highlights include:-

- Continuation of the Mentoring Program
- Umpiring and Coaching Updating
- 3 week Gulf communities hockey participation skills clinic
- Youth Gulf Hockey Competition – development
- Growth of the Karumba Hockey Carnival

Our Indigenous Hockey Development Officer – Roneece Cupitt was responsible for the introduction of hockey into the Burketown community with the assistance and support of the local community and local school. To support the introduction of the sport to the community – young people involved in the program came to the Karumba Hockey Carnival for the first time and competed with members of the Normanton teams and members of the Mornington Island team with the view that in 2009 – Burketown will nominate a team in their own right.

With Burketown now committed to the hockey program it opens the door to beginning the Youth Gulf Hockey Competition with games between Burketown –v– Doomadgee and Karumba –v- Normanton and Croydon –v- Georgetown. This will support the Gulf Squad trainings and the Gulf Squad teams playing games against Mount Isa on a regular home and away basis. This creates the pathways for coaching, officiating together with the mentoring and leadership programs which can be run in conjunction.

The 3 week Gulf community hockey participation skills clinic was a great success which reinforced the hockey program to community and school programs. It was run with the support of our project partner – Gulf Sport and Recreation Association Inc and our Development Officer ran umpiring clinics as well as skills programs to have the young people ready for the Karumba carnival. We were also able to support the schools in the community with vacation and active after school care programs.

In October – the Karumba community hosted the hockey carnival with over 100 young people attending the carnival competing in 2 separate grades – Grades 4/5 and Grades 6/7. We were encouraged with an increase of young people participating in 2008 from an increased number of teams attending from some communities attending for the first time. Development was so successful in the communities that Georgetown came to the carnival with 3 hockey teams for the first time ever and Karumba entered 4 hockey teams.



Karumba –v–Mornington Is

More impressive was the fact that the local Golf Club agreed that we could use the golf course to play hockey so all the hockey could be played on grass in order to develop the sport. The facilities are such that the size is still modified however they are now larger and the young people have the capacity to play 6 a side with rules that compliment a running and free flowing game. This is an example of how our partnership with community and GSRA becomes a positive experience for the young people of the Remote and Indigenous Communities.

It now looks like the hockey fields will be a permanent figure at the Rec Club in Karumba for the benefit of the community and the on-going development of hockey.

The Gulf Squads were selected to continue the development of hockey across the Gulf. Over 30 young people were identified from all communities participating - the discussions from community people, schools, parents and organizations servicing the remote and indigenous communities agreed to work toward Squad training and the selection of teams to play regional competition between Mount Isa teams and/or other provincial city/regional centre teams. The pathways to boarding schools and club hockey continue and relationships with Townsville clubs and boarding schools in a change of culture which is a direct result of the hockey program.



Mornington Island Team

As an ongoing part of the Karumba and Gulf program, Kate Allan, Roneece Cupitt, David McNeil and Julie McNeil provide leadership guidance for the young people, in particular the young girls. Kate Allan, a former Hockeyroo and Gold Medallist at the Sydney Olympics, is part of the group that works with the young people, the mothers and other female members of the community who participate in a series of clinics as part of the support we obtained from the Australian Sports Commission.

2008 Skills Development- 2008 Torres Strait Migi Kokan Competition

It is important to understand that under 12 months ago, hockey was a sport that young people in the Torres Strait had heard of in passing – maybe but there was no formal program being delivered anywhere.

With the assistance of the community, the Tagai State College and our Program team and supporters, the Hockey Program was identified, developed and implemented and the first full competition was conducted between communities on the 21st November 2008.

As it is a focus of the program to combine sport and culture where possible – we sought to name the competition after a tradition game within the Torres Strait with a strong resemblance to hockey “Kokan” We gained that permission and the name is known as the Torres Strait Little Hockey Competition “Migi Kokan” and was played between 3 communities – 6 teams a culmination of 5 weeks of competition with between 50-60 regular young people competing.

Names such as the Horn Island Buffalo’s and the Thursday Island Hockey Heat were tagged and parents came to look each week at how their children were progressing. We speak about Small Steps in this Program and that is what we are doing here. We started with a blank page and now we are filling this page with opportunity and pathways and development of skills, leadership training and self esteem and confidence. This is what we do with the support of our partners.

We hope with planning, development and support we can bring this program to more communities in the Torres Strait in 2009.



Thursday Island hockey players

Partnership with Tagai College and Sports Leadership Clinics for Women
We have already established further links to advance the hockey program in 2009 with our partner Tagai College and we are in consultation to conduct a series of leadership clinics for young girls focusing on the development of skills in self confidence, self esteem, coaching, becoming a role model and leading a group of young people to become healthy and happy people through a new competition.

We thank the Australian Sports Commission for their funding support and the supporters of this program who also assist.

Community Engagement



Reflect on Our Past, Imagine our Future

Q150 Community

Hockey Queensland Inc

Combining Sport and Culture through Hockey Art in the Torres Strait

An Interactive Approach of Reflecting on our Past and Imagining our Future

The Remote and Indigenous Hockey Program in partnership with Tagai State College entered into a cultural and sporting project which sought to identify a number of culturally significant events across the Torres Strait communities during the past 150 years and paint these stories onto hockey sticks and balls- commit the artwork into a permanent record of DVD and hardcopy booklet and present this to the Torres Strait community in association with the first ever hockey carnival.

In addition, this information on the culture and history of the Torres Strait and the new and emerging hockey program would then be distributed through the general hockey community in Queensland and through-out Australia via the website and other resources. The community engagement and the process that we undertook ensures that the Q150 celebrations were highlighted as part of the process in the local community, the relationship between hockey and a number of specific sections of the community strengthened because of this project.

We are hoping that this will be the beginning of the Hockey Art clinics that can combine using art, sport with discussion of many various and important social issues such as health and fitness, leadership roles within the community and education and cultural and community responsibility.

This is an example of how partnerships which initially look a little outside of the square come together for the benefit of whole of community and how the hockey program can play it's role with the support of the Queensland Government and other partners. We are hoping that the Hockey Art will be used as gifts to international teams visiting Queensland so we can show how proud we are of the diverse cultures within the state and how broad the hockey program has extended. When completed all artwork and stories can be found on the Hockey Queensland website and follow the link to Remote Hockey.

Resources and Equipment Planning and Development Towards the Future

The Program has always acknowledged that its strength has been in its ongoing commitment to development planning and community consultation. A number of philosophies have been developed through the years which continue to be modified and applied. These philosophies include:

Identifying local solutions to local problems through community consultations

Taking small steps towards success

Create partnerships with local organizations to maximize resources

Ensure that the Program combines sport with cultural programs where ever possible

Plans and Programs are created and developed for the Program as a whole for a 3 year period and then a Full One Year Plan with an associated Budget is completed. Due to our limited budget and our vision to create and maximize opportunities – we create plans and budgets for each Program area and each Main Project.

We believe this can contributed to the program entering into long term agreements with –

Tagai State College as a main program partner in the Torres Strait for an initial term of 3 years.

Gulf Sport and Recreation Association Inc as a main Program partner as an ongoing partner in the Gulf Savannah.

Queensland Government as a funding partner through its programs and projects in the remote and indigenous communities

Australian Sports Commission through the Indigenous Sports Funding Program and the policies of Hockey Australia

The supporting policies of Cairns Hockey Associations Inc, Tropical North Queensland Tafe and the Cairns office of Sport and Recreation Queensland.

One of our longest supporters is Just Hockey and the assistance and support that this company has given the program has translated into thousands of dollars of assistance over many of years.

The review of the 2008 Program will be conducted and will focus on how we can look to be innovative in the development of the Program in 2009-20011.

This will be a challenge to the members of the team but we are looking towards the future when embracing technologies will assist us with our foe – tyranny of distance and the strain on budgets and resources.

One of these innovations have already begun with the revamping of the Remote Program website. This will be used as a communication resource and will link into all four main areas of the program: Some of the revamped ideas include:-

Direct links to video access for education and training via You Tube sites

Program Calendar

Program Highlights

Photo Gallery and Multi Media access

Mentor and Leadership Program Innovation access via You Tube sites

Easier information dissemination

Interactive coaching and mentoring programs online

With the assistance of Just Hockey and the Australian Sports Commission and the Laureus Grant – Sport for Good Funding – we have been able to provide ongoing hockey equipment to the remote communities. We were able to provide full goalkeeping gear to the Torres Strait Island communities beginning their hockey programs in 2008. The ongoing success can be attributed to the generous support of Just Hockey.

Some 3 years ago Just Hockey assisted the program and supplied goalkeeping gear to the communities of the Gulf Savannah and in 3 years the standard and quality of the young people who now choose to play the positions of goalkeeper – both young girls and boys have increased to levels where specific goalkeeping clinics will have to be scheduled so as the development of these skills can continue to increase. It will not be long until goalkeepers are identified to attend Hockey Queensland Goalkeeper clinics in their own right. This is the importance of equipment and facilities.

The partnerships between the rugby league clubs and the hockey program will be paramount in the Torres Strait as it has been agreed that hockey will be played on half a football field. If hockey is successful in offering itself as a complimentary sport – the majority of Island communities in the Torres Strait have football fields and we must be successful in complimenting not competing with the most popular and traditional sport in this area – Rugby League.

Hockey Queensland's partnership with Indigenous Sport Queensland saw us support the inaugural Indigenous Sports Awards held in Cairns – the Hockey Queensland Remote and Indigenous Program nominee was Development Officer, Roneece Cupitt. Roneece has contributed to the development of the program with her capacity to deliver programs in the communities and work with communities to find solutions to their specific problems. She is a gift to our program and is committed to finding opportunities through our program. Together 2009 looks very positive for progress and advancement with the assistance of Roneece on the ground doing the hard yards. For this we thank her sincerely.

The partnership with Tropical North Queensland TAFE is progressing and we hope will culminate into a successful merge of sport and recreation course with cultural aspects in delivery including the hockey art type clinics and focus on areas where young people in the final 2 years of school can begin to undertake parts of the course and do the practical hockey training in association with the developing hockey programs in the remote and indigenous communities. Our ongoing relationship sees this as a positive step and one that can work with the whole of community with medium to long term benefits.

The Remote and Indigenous Hockey Program has undertaken an Australian first and developed through its Program an Indigenous Sports Participation Strategy particularly designed to deliver opportunities for more indigenous people to play hockey in Queensland and thereafter for more of those indigenous people to be selected in representative teams. It appears that this Program and Hockey Queensland is leading the way in Australian Hockey in this area and with our relationship with the national Indigenous Development Program it is our hope that Queensland Indigenous hockey players can represent at the highest level.

A copy of this policy will be available on the Remote Hockey website in due course. We thank all the people for their contributions. In particular we thank Joe Kelly for his support of this program.

Conclusion

I wonder how many people reading this Report with the ability to assist our Program would not be in that position now if they did not have the opportunities provided to them. Making the most of your opportunities set you apart but if you never receive those initial opportunities – what then.

This is what this Program seeks to achieve above all else. Whenever, Whatever and more importantly Where ever we find ourselves – we look at how our program and the limited resources we have at our disposal can better deliver opportunities both in the present and into the future.

It is not easy, it can be frustrating but it offers its own challenges and rewards. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all program partners for their contribution for whether it is a substantial contribution such as the support of the Queensland Government, Australian Sports Commission or Just Hockey or whether it is the support of the community in the form of the Karumba Recreation and Golf Club or the Torres Strait Island Sport and Recreation Association – every offer of support will at some stage provide an opportunity for a young person that may not have been there previously.

To the Board of Hockey Queensland, thank you for their support of the program and to General Manager, Garry West Bail I offer my unconditional thanks because some of the decisions he allows me to make simply make a difference now rather than later and this is the best kind of support for a program like this I can think of. It shows that he understands, appreciates and recognizes that any opportunity might be the difference of a lifetime.

Thank you

Julie McNeil
Program Manager



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