

Vale Don HOLLAND

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Towards the end of last week our sport lost one of the fathers who played a significant role in the setting up of the sport in South East Queensland and Queensland, with the passing of Don Holland.

Don was a member of Queensland Touch from its infancy, being involved in the first formal meeting after the foundation meeting of the sport as a Vice President and delegate of Wide Bay Touch region.

Don represented Bundaberg and Wide Bay at the formation of the Queensland Referees Association in August 1980. He was involved in setting up Wide Bay Touch region in 1979 that included Bundaberg, Maryborough, Kingaroy, Gympie Gayndah and Mundubbera.

In 1981 Don became President of the Brisbane Touch Association and the South East Queensland region, which included Redcliffe, Brisbane Touch, Metropolitan Touch, Public Service, Ipswich and Toowoomba. In this year he was also one of the people instrumental in introducing Women's Touch into Brisbane. In 1982 he was Treasurer of Queensland Touch.

Don became the President of Sunshine Coast in the late 1980's, and along with his wife Bronwyn, strengthened and developed the sport as well as the region, holding this position through to the middle of the 1990's. Don was also involved in the amalgamation of Wide Bay and Sunny Coast in Sunshine Coast Fraser and Burnett region.

Don and Bronwyn played a large part, along with Pat Carroll and Alan Satchel, in the formation of what was to become the Queensland Junior State Cup by conducting the first junior event at Kawana in 1996. They then moved the event to Noosa and commenced Queensland's most successful event.

In 2013 Queensland Touch Football honoured their efforts by awarding a perpetual trophy - the Don and Bronwyn Holland trophy for medium size affiliates, which was won by Caboolture, a Sunny Coast affiliate, in the first year.

Throughout the years of the Junior State Cup in Noosa and Glasshouse, many players would recall the old guy with the leather hat that sat in the scaffolding tower on the hill doing the announcing, but he was best remembered for his bad jokes that would keep everyone laughing and became a part of the event. Touch Football Australia conveys deepest sympathies and condolences to Don's family.

