

### EDITORIAL



It has taken a long time to recover much of the lost data from my crash of November last year. Consequently that has been a major priority and Newsletters have fallen by the way side.

FIT matters regarding some changes to the Constitution have also taken priority and all Members are by now aware of what is happening with not only these, but new Membership applications.

As soon as this round of votes is finalized there will be additional electronic meeting to review these requests for other countries to join the F.I.T.

Already Pakistan, India and Jersey have application being reviewed by the Executive with several more countries looking at preparing Forms. This argues well for the next World Cup with possibly up to six new nations attending.

The first Tour of the year has been undertaken by the ATA with an u/18 development squad touring to the Cook Islands. A story appears later in the Newsletter.

The National Championships for most nations this year will be a guide as to the strength of their representative teams

at next years World Cup in Japan. Australian hold theirs in March, Japan in May, UK in July, USA in September. Apart from these Nations I have not been informed of the dates of any other Members' events.

Japan Touch have issued an invitation to FIT Members (National and/or club teams) to attend the Japan Cup in May this year. See article later in Newsletter.

USFIT have invited referees to attend their championships also and details can also be found in their article later in this newsletter.

### GREAT MOMENTS IN TOUCH

From a Federation point of view I can only write about GMTI relative to test matches or World Cup events. There must be some great moments in the birth of FIT Members but I need you to write to me and tell me what they are.

Until then I can only talk about the International events that ATA has competed in and other historic moments in their evolution.

The third General Committee Meeting of FIT was held in Freemantle WA in April 1987 to coincide with the ATA National Championships

Representatives from Canada and PNG attended and from this meeting the Australian Tour of USA and Canada was confirmed

In October 1987 Australia sent Men, Women, Mixed and Masters teams on a tour

of Canada and the USA. Test Matches were played against the Canadians in Ontario.



the visitors were too strong for the locals winning all four test matches.

Whilst on Tour the fourth FIT General Committee Meeting was held in Burlington on 2<sup>nd</sup> October 1987 with USA and Canadian officials attending.

The outcome of this meeting was the finalisation of the first World Cup to be played in Australia on Queensland's Gold Coast in 1988.

### GREATEST TEAMS OF THE 20th CENTURY

The Australian Mens Open team has lost only two games in World Cup competition. Results of the four World Cups played are; 33 wins and 2 losses.

They scored 421 touchdowns for an average of 12.3 per game and had 63 scored against them.



They have played 16 tests matches for 12 wins suffered 3 losses and 1 draw. Their biggest win was 29-0 against PMG in 1995.

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## USFIT TOUCH IN THE USA!

USFIT are preparing for the Nationals in Hawaii on September 28th, 2002. We are looking for experienced referees to join us for this event.

Unfortunately we cannot afford to pay for airfares however we are offering three nights accommodation and transportation free - for those who would like to attend.

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

However in saying that all teams that do not qualify for the playoffs will play for the USA Invitational Touch Cup.



## LEBANON TOUCH CONTINUE TO MAKE NOISE

Since its debut in the 1999 World Cup, the Lebanon Touch Association has enjoyed much success and provided many opportunities to Lebanese and Australian-Lebanese players. Following the exceptional results in the 1999 World Cup (Mens 30's - SILVER, Mixed Open - BRONZE, Mens Open - 5th), Lebanon competed in the Youth World Cup in Boys 18's and 20's with the 18's finishing 4th in a very competitive tournament.

There is never a shortage of song, dance and entertainment when Lebanon Touch is around and the exceptional spirit and sportsmanship has infected all those involved with the Association.

The opportunities provided to the youth have been a constant focus of Lebanon Touch. Many Lebanese representatives have gone on to represent Australia including Jason Stanton (Australian Mens Open), Tony Eltacchi (Australian 30's) and Steve Tackchi (Australian 18's). Most recently as many as 6

Lebanon juniors were selected in the NSW 20's squad.

Touch is continuing to gain exposure in Lebanon where the Beirut Phoenicians Club competes in Touch Rugby and Rugby Union. There are not many fields available however the competitive nature of the Lebanese ensures there is always a game on somewhere. Even on the dirt roads!! The standard is always improving and with the support of the local Soccer clubs, requests have been forwarded to the Government for improved facilities.

In 2000, Jason Stanton was present at a Sports Development meeting in Beirut, Lebanon. Among the many guests and representatives were the President of Lebanon and the Lebanese representative of the International Olympic Committee.

The President made a special mention of the Australian-Lebanese community and extended his thanks to the many people who live all over the world that call Lebanon home. Along with its debut in the Touch World Cup, Lebanon has competed in the Rugby League World Cup as well as in the Dubai Sevens Rugby Union.

Add to this its efforts in Basketball and Soccer and it's easy to see that Lebanon is getting behind its sport and continuing to create noise on the international sporting scene.

With a Lebanon Touch Tournament planned in May and the possibility of a Test Series in August, 2002 will be another big year for the Red and Green. So if you hear the singing and drums be sure to buckle yourself in. it means the Cedar boys are in town.



## AUSTRALIANS ARRIVE IN COOK ISLANDS

On the teams arrival in Rarotonga the Cook Islands community met players and officials. Each player was given a 'ei' (lei) of local flowers and it was a moving and exciting experience.

In Raro (as the locals call it) the visitors found the conditions to be extremely hot and humid. The accommodation would test the tourists as they experienced the

living conditions and styles of the local Cook Islanders.



The culture of the locals was an experience in itself. Sunday is a religious day and is very much a day of rest and no sporting activities are expected in the mornings. So to the beach was the order of the day and the Cook Islands national teams entertained the Australian.

The evening saw a competitive games night between the boys and girls. The girls victorious 2-1

The inaugural Touch Test series was played at the Cook Islands National Stadium on Thursday 21st February 2002. The Cook Islands Minister for Sport and Recreation, and the President of the Cook Islands Olympic Association opened the series.

It was a historic moment - it was a big day - the first Under 18's test match between the two countries. The games at the National Stadium, which is adjacent to Terrora College, allowed all the students to be granted the afternoon off to watch the test matches.

The girls played the first game and didn't they get a very, very warm welcome when they all striped down to our body suits

The crowd went absolutely crazy with excitement and envy. Australia won the game 19-0, all the scorers being mainly from the wing position. The second test match later that night was again convincingly won 13-1. The girls were all happy with the day's effort, not to mention thoroughly exhausted!

The boys game was not as easy as the visitors expected. A determined Cook Islands side fought doggedly to restrict the Australian to 11-0 in the first test.

Having got rid of the nerves on such an occasion, the Australian felt very confident of expanding their game in the second test. However they failed to give

the locals a copy of the script. A great game by both teams saw Australia a very relived 7-2 winner The third tests were held at the Avatiu Rugby Club playing fields on Friday 22 February.



The girls played first and as was expected the match was tight for the first 10 minutes with the Australians showing good ball control and composure in the hot and humid conditions. As the pace continued the Australians applied more pressure and their efforts began to show against a weakening Cook Islands group.

The second half saw the Australians apply pressure and control the match from the outset. Eventually the team's individual brilliance resulted in many excellent touchdowns. The final score was in favor of the Australian's winning 15 - 1.

Australia completed a clean sweep winning all games the boys team came up against a very determined Cook Island youth team who had learnt much from the previous day's test matches.



The defence of the Australians was tested on many occasions and when the Cook Islands team levelled to 1-1 early in the first half the Australians were required to kick into a higher gear. However the Cook Islands team showed determination and continued to pressure the Australians.

In the end the strength and skill of the Australians showed through and they ran out winners - but not until the Cook Islands showed they also knew how to score. The final score in the match was 11-2.

The visitors dominated the Players of the Series awards with Roxanne Winder

winning the female player award and Troy Malcolm winning the male award.

## FAMOUS INTERVIEWS



Cup Touch, the Master himself – Bobby Brindell.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

represented his country and second only to Scott Notley as a mens open player

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



and Shane Frederikson, you get in, get the win and get out.

I felt Queensland went through a purple patch with a few old heads in Notley, the Brindells, Pierce, Grehan and Foster and the young guns the McDonalds, Madders and Ward. This blend of youth and skill, age and treachery saw Queensland dominate throughout the 1990's.



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Players like Corey Foster could have been the best to ever pull a boot on – if he knuckled down and trained – but I suppose he still had fun. Pat Grehan was another. But my support goes out to the Indians, the workers, ruckers and defenders who made it easier for the attackers to do their thing.

*Your favorite Food*

Spring Rolls made the Vietnamese way with Rice and Mince

*Your favourite TV show/Movie*

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

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

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

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

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

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

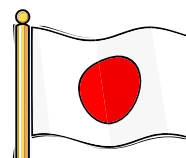
Not so much a rule. I would love to see the game go to 5 on 5. People may think this would mean the faster players would have an advantage but I disagree. When

Queensland played NSW in the first State of Origin, we were a bit worried about the NSW pace; however, you can only show your speed if you get through. The other reason why I would like to see 5 on 5 is because I don't play anymore.

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

## JAPAN CUP

The Japan Cup will be conducted on 18th and 19th of May 2002. Japan Touch invites oversea team to attend as a pre-warm up to the World Cup at Kumagaya.



Some NZ teams have decided to visit Japan for the event, and if necessary JTA will subsidize accommodation fees. If any Member wishes to organize some teams - Regional or club teams, whatever (but not national teams) -Mixed teams are better - please contact Japan Touch

## YOUR NEWSLETTER

Remember this newsletter belongs to YOU - the players, officials, and all the members of the World's touch fraternity. Send me your snippets, your articles any events, or your calendar, or any other items you wish published. The success of this newsletter will depend upon you submitting articles but more importantly assisting in the circulation of each issue to as many "touchies" as possible.

**Please e.mail this on to all the addresses in your address book to provide as wide a circulation as possible**

**Editorial: Cary Thompson**  
**All articles for publication are to be submitted to [cary@austouch.com.au](mailto:cary@austouch.com.au) and may be edited to comply with standards of language and legal obligations in respect of defamation etc.**

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### 2002

|   |                                   |               |           |
|---|-----------------------------------|---------------|-----------|
| 17/19 March                                   | Australian Nationals (Opens/20's) | Coffs Harbour | Australia |
| 21/23 March                                   | Australian Nationals (Seniors)    | Coffs Harbour | Australia |
| 18/19 <sup>th</sup> May                       | Japan Cup                         | Kumagaya      | Japan     |
| 6/9 <sup>th</sup> June                        | Asian Touch Championships         |               | Singapore |
| 8/9 <sup>th</sup> June                        | Qld -v- NSW State of Origin       | Brisbane      | Australia |
| 6 <sup>th</sup> July                          | UK National Championships         | Wigan         | England   |
| 13/14 July                                    | FIT European Championships        | Cardiff       | Wales     |
| 18/21 September                               | Australian Youth Championships    | Coffs Harbour | Australia |
| 19/21 September                               | Trans Tasman                      | Coffs Harbour | Australia |
| 28 <sup>th</sup> September                    | USA National Championships        | Hawaii        | USA       |
| 27 <sup>th</sup> Sept. / 2 <sup>nd</sup> Oct. | Australian All Schools (15's)     | Canberra      | Australia |
| 31 <sup>st</sup> Oct/2 <sup>nd</sup> Nov.     | Australia Cup                     | TBA           | Australia |

### 2003

|   |                                   |                |             |
|---|-----------------------------------|----------------|-------------|
| 22/27 <sup>th</sup> January                   | Australian Youth (20's) Tour      | South Island   | New Zealand |
| 15/17 <sup>th</sup> March                     | Australian Nationals (Opens/20's) | Coffs Harbour  | Australia   |
| 19/22 <sup>nd</sup> March                     | Australian Nationals (Seniors)    | Coffs Harbour  | Australia   |
| 17/20 <sup>th</sup> May                       | FIT Master World Cup              | Kumagaya       | Japan       |
| 22/25 <sup>th</sup> May                       | FIT Opens World                   | Kumagaya       | Japan       |
| 28 <sup>th</sup> June / 12 <sup>th</sup> July | South Pacific Games               | Suva           | Fiji        |
| 17/20 September                               | Australian Youth Championships    | Coffs Harbour  | Australia   |
| Sept/October                                  | FIT World Clubs (Opens/Masters)   | Various Venues | Australia   |
| Sept/October                                  | Australian All Schools (15's)     | TBA            | Australia   |
| October                                       | FIT World Schools Championships   | Cold Coast     | Australia   |
| 30 Oct/1 <sup>st</sup> Nov.                   | Australia Cup                     | TBA            | Australia   |

### 2004

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

2005

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

2006

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

2007

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

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

## Touch Web Sites

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



I wish to thank [Michael Braodbent's Photo Gallery](#)  
For allowing FIT to use his pic in this newsletter  
[www.sportingimages.com.au](http://www.sportingimages.com.au)