

TIGERLAND NEWS



26TH MAY 2023 | ISSUE 03

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PRESIDENT'S POST

What a start we have had to the 2023 season with record numbers for the footy club with over 330 registered players across all grades! This is by far the largest number we have had involved in the club with plenty of age groups in the juniors now having two teams. On top of this, we have also had 100 Auskickers at Potty Oval this year which again is a record. I believe we are now the largest AFL club North of Newcastle to the Qld border - a massive win for the club and reward for plenty of years of hard work from those involved, both past and present.

Although the senior men probably haven't had an ideal start to the year, they are definitely on the right track with their game style, improved fitness and overall team culture which is a massive win for our club. Solly and the coaching staff are really getting great "buy in" from the boys and this will no doubt pay dividends shortly and into the future. One of the most pleasing aspects of our men's senior program has been the integration of some U17's into both our reserves and senior teams throughout the first 4 weeks. Keep this up boys as we look to build a team around our youth into the future.

The women's team have had a great, undefeated start to the year and look on track to again make the finals and hopefully get to the big dance again this year but go one better. One of the most pleasing things as a club is hearing the great feedback we get from our opposition, not only in close games but also when it goes all our way. This is a credit to the ladies, coaching staff and the great culture these girls have. We also have very strong numbers in this program and will hopefully look to field two teams in our women's program next year.

The junior program keeps going from strength to strength with the direction of the coaches and parents driving the culture of being a fair and inclusive club, not purely focused on winning but ensuring all our kids keep getting a game of footy and developing an ongoing love

of the game. As a parent of a player, a coach and also the president, this is what makes our footy club the success it is and what keeps people coming back - well done to all involved so far!

What a bonus our new rooms and facilities have been this year. They are the envy of plenty of clubs and the feedback we keep getting from outsiders has been all positive. The canteen has been revamped with a whole new menu and level of professionalism - cracking job Kim and Reign! The Jungle Bar has also been a big winner so far this year with the coup of getting Stone and Wood on board (a massive win) and this will keep developing over the next year or so. Both of these keep injecting funds into the running of the club so please continue your support.

There are plenty of unsung heroes around footy clubs, but I reckon one group that we quite often neglect are the volunteer umpires. Jase Clark leads this group and has done a power of work to get a good core of umpires to help out the club this year. Thanks so much Jase and the other umpires.

Lastly to the club Sponsors. A footy club cannot function without the support of sponsorship dollars, and we offer a huge thankyou to all our sponsors this year. Supporters, players, and parents please get around our sponsors and support their businesses.

To everyone involved in the footy club, thanks so much for what we have already achieved this year and let's keep up the momentum for the remainder of the season and make 2023 a massive success.

Go Tiges!

Cheers, Andrew

Photos courtesy of @childphotos Jason Childs





SOLLY'S SAY

G'day all,

As we complete Round 4, the season is starting to show us a few trends.

Firstly, it looks like the competition is going to be divided into two groups. The first being Burleigh, Bond Uni and Carrara. These teams have showed the early form and look to have depth. The second being Coolangatta, Coomera, Robina, Ballina and ourselves, all searching for some consistency as the first month of footy is behind us.

We have made some significant inroads into our on and off-field. Off-field the players have forged their own trademark, building a fresh culture and are galvanising quickly with a series of social events. On-field we are starting to see our brand stand up for longer periods of time within each game.

Unfortunately, we have been inconsistent with the availability of players each game! As a result, 33 players have already tasted senior footy in just 4 rounds. One of those being 16 year old Tom Arthur who made his debut in Round 3 against Robina. Tommy has a bright future and will be a leader of this footy club in years to come.

Although a win hasn't eventuated just yet, every game we play we take a step closer to experiencing that feeling again.

Education, patience and hard work are the keys to building the short and long term success of this footy club.

We appreciate the amount of support we have had in the first 4 games of this season, especially the three games at home! The crowds at each game haven't been seen at our club in years and it's great to have you back.

We have played the top two teams and we play the third, Carrara, this weekend. We are looking forward to our next four week block!

Solly

U15.5 & U17.5 GIRLS

By Steve Foreman and Scott Ella

Our outstanding Tigers NR 15s and 17s girls are a magic work in progress! This awesome high quality player group is finding its way with a great launch into season 23!

The Girls are tough, fit, strong and smart. That's our identity. Match results are reflecting the tenacity and energy we stamp on all of our games! The connection is growing stronger with every training session and the girls are sharing elite skills with confidence under pressure.

U15.5 Girls

There is an amazing connection between the Tigers, Vulcans and Ballina girls. They have delivered a 2-1 win outcome. The incredible addition of new players from Basketball and Netball ranks are setting this group up for an AFL journey that will see us at the top of the heap. There's no secret.. these girls are just great!

U17.5 Girls

This is an outstanding NR outcome that we have dreamed of for many years. Well its on and our girls are just the best. Once again, top end! 2 x wins and 1 x loss



Photos courtesy of @dean_hillard_photography

TIGER CUB RISING STARS

A number of our Tweed Coast Tigers junior players have proudly represented our club and their regions in their respective competitions/carnivals.

In April, Amelia Ella was selected in the Gold Coast Suns U16's Female squad and was presented with her jersey before playing against the Sydney Swans in the National Championship. Amelia and the Sun's girls, including two of her Northern Rivers teammates, Billie Hutton and Peppa Savins, won 84-20 and Milly was named 1 of 2 best on ground - An outstanding achievement!

This month, several of our junior girls competed at the NSW All Schools Primary Girls AFL Championship in Bateman's Bay. Amelia Topper, Indy Phelps, Ava Sheehan, Charli McDonald and Sophie Ella all played outstanding and are to be congratulated for their effort and sportsmanship during the tournament. An additional congratulations goes to Amelia Topper who was selected in the NSW All Schools team to play at the upcoming Australian Championship. An unreal achievement!

Grace Ella is currently competing in the National 5-game series with the Gold Coast Suns U18 Female team. Last weekend, Grace travelled to Ikon Park in Melbourne to play against the Greater Western Victoria Rebels. On top of a solid win, Grace was named one of the Best on Ground. This weekend, Grace and the Sun's girls travel to Ipswich, then travel back to Melbourne the following week to play the final game of the series. Well done Gracey and good luck for the remainder of the series!

We also had numerous junior players competing at the NSW CHS All School's AFL Championship in Albury earlier this month. George Kemmettmuller, Noah van den Driest,



Emile Halliday, Ollie Kearsey and Samuel Ella all represented North Coast in the competition. In the girls competition, Wren Hynes (Vulcans) and Summer Browning (Vulcans) represented the Greater Northern team while U15 Girls Tweed Coast/Northern Rivers teammate Macey France unfortunately had to withdraw. All players are to be congratulated on this achievement!

We can't wait to see what future achievements our junior players have in store!



2023 AUSKICK PROGRAM

By Brett Purcell

Well what an awesome sight it was at Pottsville Oval during the first session of our Tweed Coast Tigers Auskick program! It completely surpassed our expectations as nearly 100 kids showed up, having fun whilst learning Australia's number one sport; AFL.

With local club legend Julien van den Driest from the AFLQ running the show, it was a magnificent first session had by all. Now with only a couple weeks to go, the numbers are still at 100 and the kids are still arriving with a smile and leaving with even bigger ones. We are so proud of the next generation of young Tigers - running around, making new friends and learning all the physical and mental skills that AFL provides.

A special thanks to all the parents that have helped out over the past 8 weeks. Without your help, this program would not have been able to be run so smoothly - especially with this incredible number of children involved. Bring on the Superstars!

Photos courtesy of @childphotos Jason Childs

TIGERS HISTORY CORNER

Chris Masters

Awarded Life Membership of the Junior Club in 2011

By Rick Van Den Driest

Chris Masters began his football journey in Brisbane with the Wilston-Grange Junior AFL Club. He spent 5 winters chasing the Sherrin, while Summer holidays were regularly spent at the Big 4 Caravan Park at Hastings Point with his mum and dad.

Later, Chris moved to the Sunshine Coast where he played Senior footy with Caloundra and just as importantly, met his future wife Julie.

Fortunately for the Tigers, by 1993, Chris' childhood memories of holidaying in the Northern Rivers drew him back to this area.

As 2007 began, their eldest son was attending Pottsville Primary School and enrolled in the new Auskick Program (run by Julian van den Driest). A great partnership was formed. Chris became the inaugural coach of the first group of Tweed Coast Tigers (35 boys aged between 8-14 years old). His side spent the season playing the team that had the bye in the Northern Rivers League.

By 2008, our Junior AFL Club was officially formed and Chris coached the U12's to a premiership! Would you believe this football addict also found time to play with the new Tigers Senior team as a 42 year old in their first season!?

The following year saw Chris coach his U12's to another flag, while in 2010 his U14's were runners Up. He coached this team as U15's for his third premiership and also looked after the U8 Auskick program! In those days the Northern Rivers League finished at U15, so Chris gathered his Tigers and invited other players from Byron, Ballina & Lismore to form 2 teams (Div1 and Div2) to play with Coolangatta, who only had 6 players on their list. His wife Julie had also jumped on board to be Junior Club Secretary - a position she held for 2 years.

Chris and Julie still reside in Pottsville and quietly keep an eye on the progress of their beloved Tweed Coast Tigers.



Photo courtesy of @childsphotos

UPCOMING EVENTS

May 27th - Sir Doug Nicholls Round (all Senior grades playing at Barry Sheppard)

May 27th - Jungle Boogie Event - 7pm @ Barry Sheppard

July 15th - Pride Round

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Tweed Tigers



Tweed Coast Tigers

EXCITING SENIOR NEWS

AFL Queensland have recently announced the South Queensland men's and women's squads ahead of the upcoming rep clash match against North Queensland in June. THREE Tweed Coast Tigers women have been announced in this squad; Makayla Sekac, Trinity Ella and Grace Ella.

Tweed Coast Tigers would like to congratulate all three girls for this outstanding achievement. It is a testament to your consistent hard work and strong performances each week. Good luck girls!



Photo credit: Tweed Coast Tigers Footy Photos

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