

TIGERLAND NEWS



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PRESIDENT'S WELCOME

Hello Tigers and welcome to the first edition of the 2023 season Tigers Newsletter.

Well, what a change the last couple of months has brought to our club, both Senior and Junior. I hope everyone see's what we are trying to achieve and gets on board to help realise the ambitions of the Committee, players, sponsors and supporters. As many of you would know we have amalgamated the Senior and Junior clubs to now be under the one banner of the Tweed Coast Tigers Australian Football Club. This will streamline many activities within the club and create many synergies in regards to things such as apparel, sponsorship, committee and volunteer hours. A whole new Board has been elected and an organisational structure put in place to drive efficiencies and reduce the workload on past volunteers and committees of both the senior and junior clubs. We really want our supporters, players, sponsors and volunteers to enjoy being part of the club and not have to be over burdened in roles that they shouldn't have to do. In saying that the more helpers the better so if you think you can help in any way please feel free to reach out and I'm sure we can accommodate any requests.

Probably the biggest news item in the off-season has been the signing of Dean Solomon to the senior coaching role. Solly brings with him over 200 games of AFL experience and has also been assistant coach at Fremantle, Gold Coast Suns and more recently at the GWS Giants. This is a massive coup for our club and will drive a whole new level of professionalism, fitness and culture. We really can't be more excited to get Solly on board and we can't wait to see what transpires in 2023. Welcome Solly and family to Tigerland.

Also, on the coaching front we have signed up coaches and assistants for most of the other grades, and all the junior teams - both male and female. This is a massive achievement for this time of the year and will see us hit the ground running when we start pre-season early in the new year.

Another big change is the building of the new change rooms at the southern end of Barry Sheppard Oval. If you haven't had a look, it's worth a look and wander around. All I can say is that they are now probably as good as any in our league and again takes us to another level. Thanks so much to the people who worked tirelessly to get us the grant money and to organise the building in conjunction with the Council.

Other things happening out at Round Mountain is the spreading of topsoil to help alleviate any low and wet areas. Still a bit to do here but it will be an ongoing yearly program. We also have an irrigation system going in this year which will really help out during our normally dry winters to keep the grass growing and to soften the surface. Re-seeding and fertilising of the oval will occur in the new year.

We do have a few more things on the go at the ground so feel free to pop your head in and have a look. We hope to have most of the improvements up and running by the start of the season in late April including a new can bar and the addition of a new electronic scoreboard.

The Board and I have been overwhelmed by the show of support from past and present players and supporters and we are totally aware that this is only the start of what we want to achieve for Tigerland. Personally, I'd like to thank James Walle and Julian Mostert for their vision and endless work that they have both done over the last 6 months - these guys are unreal.

I hope everyone had a cracking Xmas and New Year break with family and friends and have come back fully energised for the new year of footy. Bring on 2023. Go Tiges.

Cheers, Andrew Ryan

THANK YOU TO OUR MAJOR SPONSORS





UNDER 17'S – BOYS

By Ben Kelly (coach)

Welcome to Season 2023! As I'm sure you are all aware, Tweed Coast Tigers have taken an enormous step forward in merging the Junior and Seniors clubs into one Club and securing the services of Dean Solomon as Senior Men's Head Coach. Dean has recent AFL level coaching experience with the Gold Coast Suns and Greater Western Sydney Giants and has set a new standard in all aspects of coaching and training since joining the club. It has been great to see some of the 17s group getting amongst the Senior training sessions and impressing the coaching group. We will continue to work closely with Dean and the Senior Coaching team as we progress into the season.

I am pleased to announce Brett Arthur and Will Shone as assistant coaches for the Tweed Coast Tigers Under 17s. Brett has a special connection with the group, having coached the Tigers Under 12s to a Premiership in 2018. Brett will be focusing on skill development and using the best technology available to enhance on field performance. Will Shone joins the group as our Ruck and Midfield Coach. Will is a highly skilled and experienced ruckman, having played at the highest level in Queensland. He is keen to share his knowledge and help shape the Club's next generation of big men.

There is so much to be excited about for the season ahead and it is time to get started. Preseason training commences on Tuesday 7 th February. Training times will be the same as last season, Tuesday and Thursday 4:45pm to 6:30pm at The Jungle. Looking forward to seeing you all in action soon.

SOLLY'S SAY

The five week training block pre-Christmas and four week training block post Christmas has given us plenty of optimism about where we can take our club and quickly. The character that already exists at the club and quality of personnel we are attracting/bringing in allows us to focus on stabilising our off field, reconnect and build upon our short but rich history. As a result, we have a huge amount of confidence that on-field success will follow suit!

Thank you to both our current and new sponsors. It is truly a great time to jump on board, get involved and be a part of what will be something pretty bloody special!

Dean Solomon

2023 BOARD

President	Andrew Ryan
Vice President	James Walle
Secretary	Brooke Sheard
Treasurer	Kathryn Fraser
Commercial Sponsorship	Hamish Mitchell
Ground Management & Grants	Rick van den Driest
Senior Men's Operations Manager	Shane Art
Senior Women's Operations Manager	Nadia Clark
Junior Youth Operations Manager	Julian Mostert
Junior Footy for Fun Operations Manager	Brett Purcell



2023 Board, Volunteers and Coaches

Photo: Jason Childs

TIGERS HISTORY CORNER

Junior Club History

In the beginning...

The year was 2003 when a retired Accountant named Bob Mackay moved south from Brisbane to Pottsville. After a couple of years settling into the Northern Rivers lifestyle with wife Anne, he saw the need for a Junior AFL Club in his new found home. Bob had previously been on the committee of the famous Coorparoo AFL Club in Brisbane and was a ghostwriter for the club newsletter, while his son Noel was playing Junior football there.

In early 2006, Bob typed up a flyer asking for anybody interested in playing AFL to contact him. This was done via a letterbox drop to all the homes in the growing neighbourhoods of Pottsville. The only reply that a despondent Bob received was from a young landscaper named Julian van den Driest who had recently built his first home in Koala Beach with his new wife after leaving Kingscliff. Soon, Bob and Julian organised a sign on day on a Saturday morning out front of the Pottsville Primary School. The pair sat at a fold out table for 3 hours, only to have 2 cars turn up!

Undeterred, Julian approached the school where he knew a few teachers and volunteered to run AFL Clinics for the kids at lunchtimes. Meanwhile, Bob was busy contacting AFL NSW in Coffs Harbour in a bid to form a new Junior AFL Club - the problem was that AFL NSW only extended as far north as Ballina and AFLQ only as far south as Coolangatta!

Once word spread of the activities of the 'Dynamic Duo', AFL NSW began paying Julian a small sum to visit Northern Rivers Primary Schools and conduct AFL Clinics on a part time basis. By Easter, while Bob was still working hard on the logistics of forming a new club, Julian's passion and demeanour with young kids and AFL skills had attracted enough young players from surrounding schools to play some practice matches. These unsanctioned games were played against the team that had a bye in the local Northern Rivers competition, often taking place at the Pottsville Primary School oval.

By the start of season 2007, the Tweed Coast Tigers were officially part of the Northern Rivers AFL competition.

Bob and Julian were officially recognised for their contributions by being awarded as inaugural life members of the Tweed Coast Tigers Junior AFL Club.

Bob passed away on the 6th September 2022. Julian and brother Rick attended the funeral where Bob's coffin was adorned with a Tigers footy jumper as well as his life member badge!

Bob is survived by his son Neil who incidentally is a teacher at Palm Beach Currumbin High School and responsible for setting up the AFL Sporting Excellence program that he runs to this day. Julian has been working with AFLQ for the past 15 years and has a son Noah playing with the Tigers in the U13's in season 2023. Stay tuned for more reflections into the history of our wonderful club!

Rick van den Driest (Past President/Coach/Life member)



UPCOMING EVENTS

Feb 4th - Lingy Cup @ Pottsville Oval 1pm

Feb 7th - U/15 and U/17 Boys Training Commences @ Barry Sheppard Oval 4:45pm

Feb 9th - Junior Sign on, Meet the Age Coaches and Meet the GC Suns Day @ Barry Sheppard 4pm

Feb 25th - Senior Men's vs Beenleigh Practice Match @ Barry Sheppard
Senior Women's Intraclub Match

March 4th & 5th - Cooly Cup Day (Seniors)

March 18th - Senior Men's and Women's vs Bond Uni Practice Matches @ Barry Sheppard

March 25th - Senior Men's vs Coomera @ Barry Sheppard

April 1st - Senior Women's Practice Match vs Surfers Paradise @ Barry Sheppard

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