

CENTRAL QUEENSLAND TOUCH ASSOCIATION



FROM THE BEACH TO THE BORDERS

HISTORY OF TOUCH IN CENTRAL QUEENSLAND

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CONTENTS

Page No.

Queensland Touch Association.....	3
Touch in Central Queensland.....	6
Intercity Tournaments.....	8
Formation of Central Queensland Touch Association.....	9
Affiliation Fees.....	10
Affiliation to QTA.....	10
Constitution.....	10
Central Queensland Referees Association.....	12
Selectors.....	13
Central Queensland Touch Association Teams	
Championships & Representative Games.....	15
Women in Touch.....	18
Steel Davis.....	19
Superleague.....	21
State and National Players.....	24
Queensland.....	25
Australian.....	26
Referees.....	27
Playing Gear.....	28
Touch Families.....	29
AFFILIATES	
Callide Valley.....	31
Longreach.....	33
Rockhampton.....	34
Gladstone.....	36
Blackwater.....	40
Bundaberg.....	47
Emerald.....	50
Author's Note.....	62



QUEENSLAND TOUCH ASSOCIATION

The Queensland Touch Association was formed at a meeting held at the Melbourne Hotel in Brisbane on 20th January 1979. The Association was to be called the Queensland Touch Football Association.

The Chairman of the meeting was Noel Gardiner who was the President of the South East Queensland Touch Association.

Vince Reynolds, as the President of the Rockhampton Touch Association and Col Gittins, the Secretary/Treasurer, were invited to represent Central Queensland as there was no Central Queensland Association at the time. The President of North Queensland along with Wayne Daley from South East Queensland were also in attendance. Ray Vawden, the President of the New South Wales Association and the Australian Association, was an invited guest along with Phil Smith who was the Secretary of the Australian Association.

Ray Vawden addressed the meeting outlining the history of Touch in New South Wales. He spoke on the various competitions in Sydney. In 1979 there were 15000 players in Sydney and 25000 in Country New South Wales.

Phil Smith also addressed the meeting pointing out that all States with the exception of Queensland were affiliated with the Australian Touch Association.

Touch was not very strong in the other States with Victoria only having 30 teams, South Australia, 60 teams, Western Australia, 30 teams and 8 teams in Tasmania. At this stage, A.C.T. had no teams.

When the State Association was formed four regions were allocated to Queensland and these were:-

South East Queensland

Wide Bay

Central Queensland

North Queensland.

The elected Office Bearers were:-

President	Paul Eggers
Secretary/Treasurer	Russell Mowles
Publicity Officer	John Barsby

The Divisional Representatives were

Central Queensland	Vince Reynolds
North Queensland	John McAllister
South East Queensland	Wayne Daley

Wide Bay was not represented at the Meeting. The Divisional representatives all became Vice Presidents of the State Association.

South East Queensland was eventually broken up into the following

Brisbane City

Sunshine Coast

Gold Coast

South West Queensland

The Queensland Touch Association retained the format of a Delegate from each Region from 1979 until 2002 when the Board of Directors was formed.

TOUCH IN CENTRAL QUEENSLAND

Touch football was first introduced into Central Queensland by Kev Wilton from Biloela. Kev placed an advertisement in the local Biloela Paper on 16th October 1973 calling for interested players to form the Callide Valley Touch Football Association. On 20th October 1973, the first game was played with enough players to fill three teams.

Rockhampton formed an Association after a meeting held at the Rugby League Fields (Browne Park) on 21st October 1973. This Association was to be known as the Rockhampton Touch Football Association. The first season commenced in Rockhampton at Browne Park on 17th February 1974 with eight teams.

Within a short time of Touch being introduced in the Central Queensland Region Gladstone and Emerald formed Associations.

Because of player numbers in the various towns in Central Queensland domestic rules differed.

In Rockhampton when the Association was formed in October 1973 a motion was passed which read

“No Rugby League players registered in the current season and no Rugby League player registered in the previous season except for Rugby League players of the previous season who were over 25 years of age be permitted to play in the Rockhampton competition”

On the 18th June 1974 in conjunction with the rule restricting Rugby League players from playing Touch the same rule was adopted for Rugby Union players. This rule concerning League and Union players was again changed to read that

“No Rugby League or Rugby Union player registered in the previous or current season be permitted to compete in the Rockhampton Competition regardless of age”.

A greater percentage of players in the Rockhampton Competition were in late 20's and 30's except for one team called Colleageans which comprised a group of young Christian Brothers with an average age of around 19 years. This team, because of the age difference, had a distinct advantage over the other teams and won the initial Grand Final “in a trot”.

At a meeting of the Association on 29th October 1974 a motion was passed

“that the minimum age for players in the Rockhampton Association be 25 years and over. The date to commence from midnight on 28th February 1975. Proof of age may be required”.

This rule remained until 9th February 1982 when the age limit was reduced to 18 years.

At a meeting held on 30th March 1976 Australian Rules and Soccer Players were also added to the rule concerning Rugby League and Rugby Union players. This rule was removed on 21st September 1982.

The above rules only applied to the Rockhampton Competition as it was not practical to apply them in the smaller centres because of player numbers.

INTERCITY TOURNAMENTS

The Central Queensland Touch Association had not yet been formed and the Rockhampton Touch Association organised games between teams from various centres within the Central Queensland area and these tournaments were called Intercity Carnivals and were played in June of each year.

The first Intercity Carnival was played in Rockhampton at Brosnan Oval on 13th June 1976 with teams from Rockhampton, Gladstone and Callide Valley competing.

The following year this Tournament was again held in Rockhampton at Brosnan Oval with teams from Rockhampton, Gladstone, Callide Valley and Mackay.

Because of the number of teams this Tournament was held on Saturday and Sunday.

An attempt was made to form a Central Queensland Touch Association following the Tournament but it proved unsuccessful.

The Rockhampton Association continued holding Intercity Tournaments and the first Representative Games held in Central Queensland were on the 29th July 1978 when three representative teams from Rockhampton were selected to play two Brisbane teams and a representative team from Emerald.

On the 19th August 1978 the same three representative teams from Rockhampton played two representative teams from Callide Valley and one from Emerald in a Tournament held in Rockhampton at Brosnan Oval.

Because of the representative games during 1978 the Intercity Carnival was not held.

FORMATION OF CQ TOUCH ASSOCIATION

The Central Queensland Touch Football Association was formed on 18th March 1979 from a meeting at the Biloela Civic Centre instigated by Vince Reynolds and Col Gittins.

Present at the meeting was Vince Reynolds, Col Gittins from Rockhampton, Rod Ward, G Philip and Graham Barnes from Biloela, Lloyd Wart and David Enwrite from Gladstone and Peter Vine and T Cae from Emerald.

The following Office Bearers were elected from this Meeting:-

- 1. President** **Vince Reynolds, a position he held until 1983**
- 2. Secretary/Treasurer** **Col Gittins, a position he held until 1988**
when he was elected
President (a

- position held until 1996)**
- 3. Vice President Rod Ward from Biloela**
 - 4. Vice President Lloyd Wart from Gladstone**

At this time, the Central Queensland Association consisted of Rockhampton, Gladstone, Emerald and Biloela.