

TIGERS MEN'S END OF SEASON TRIP – COFFS HARBOUR

History:

The end of season trip came about through discussions held between Don Harrower (Tigers) and Bruce Frances and Greg Rollason (Commercials – Brisbane).

Bruce Frances played for several seasons in the lower grades with Tigers while he worked here and his family were lived in Newcastle. Don and Bruce decided that both Tigers and Commercials had a similar philosophy toward the game of hockey particularly in the lower grades and that the clubs should get together and play against one another. This was how the end of season competition / trip was formulated and it commenced in October 1992.

Year 1 – Tigers hearty souls travelled by a 14 seater bus from Newcastle to Brisbane on what was a very loooong trip, while there were also a few players who drove to Brisbane and made a holiday out of it. As you can imagine there were some very tired and sore players after a **15 hour ???** trip to Brisbane. The games and competition was very enjoyable with the Commercials Club and players being great hosts and Tigers played on their grass grounds at their hockey complex.

Year 2 – Commercials hired a large bus and came down to Newcastle. Tigers players, wives, girlfriends entertained the Brisbane players and they were treated to a very enjoyable time in Newcastle and were shown around town on a double decker bus on the Saturday evening. The hockey once again was extremely enjoyable particularly as the Brisbane players got to play on the artificial surface in Newcastle which they didn't, at that time, get to play on in Brisbane. Following that trip it was decided that it would be much better idea if both sides could get away and meet somewhere in between.

Year 3 to 7 (1994 to 97) – during this period both clubs travelled to Grafton as they had a synthetic surface even though it was a sand base. Over this period both teams staged at the Crown Hotel on the river at Grafton, where we played against one another and also a composite team played against the Far North Coast Veterans Team. This was a really great place to play however as you can imagine it was much shorter to come from Brisbane than from Newcastle. Hence, it was decided that we would go to Armidale to play.

Year 8 and 9 (1998 and 1998) – the first year we stayed at Echidna Gully which was miles out of town so suffice to say not the best accommodation so we let Don, Bruce and Rollo know about the **poor** choice of accommodation. The following year thankfully we stayed in Armadale at the Royal Hotel where we didn't have to go miles out of town for a drink. We also had a three way competition over that period with Cardiff Men's Hockey Club who provided a team and consequently a three way round robin. At the end of that period Coffs Harbour obtained a water base synthetic surface and as it was approximately halfway between Brisbane and Newcastle it was the ideal venue for us both to play hockey for the end of season trip.

Year 10 to now (1999 to 2013) – this is the 22nd year and the trip is open to all the Tigers men players, friends or just those wanting to go away for the weekend. The only stipulation is that you must be over 18 because we may have the odd ale at a pub or two during the trip and over the weekend.

It has been a very slow take-up till this stage and we are endeavouring to get a large bus again this year. Therefore, I implore those considering going to Coffs Harbour to put your name down and provide Don with a deposit. I can assure you that you'll have a tremendous weekend away and we have players who come from as far away as Griffith and Sydney to take part in the weekend and they have already paid their moneys for the trip.

Now:

The details of the trip are as follows:

Where are we going — Coffs Harbour of course.

When are we going — 11 to 13 October 2013.

What time are we leaving — 10.00 am Friday 11.10.13.

What will it cost — \$ 380 per person, this includes breakfast, accommodation, lunch on the way up to Coffs. Walk out shirt on the Saturday and a great time assured!

Action: Act now and place your name down to ensure a seat on the bus so Don can organise the shirts and the appropriate size bus. Talk to your team mates and also go as a group if you desire.

I'd love to see a full bus of Tigers players and supports heading to Coffs this year. You'll have a great long weekend and it is open to all levels of players across the club from 1st to 6th Grade so come along and enjoy the weekend.

Lastly, we want to take the trophy back this year from those Cane Tods (Commercials) as it has been a little like the State of Origin the last few years.

Yours in Tigers Hockey

Col Doyle

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