



INSIDE THE DEN

WALLSEND TOUCH NEWSLETTER
WOW WHAT A MONTH FOR OUR CUBS

**WALLSEND
TOUCH
ASSOC INC**

FEBRUARY

2 GALA DAYS, PETER WILSON MEMORIAL, JUNIOR STATE CUP.

BUT BEFORE WE GO THERE – HERE IS A BIT OF HISTORY ON THE BEGINNINGS OF JUNIORS.

Prior to the thought of running Juniors. Wallsend touch made the newspapers with a team of players looking to start teaching their children the game of Touch. 1985 saw Debbie Sault, Barbara Watsford and Denis Skinner on the field with the younger players. Saulties Roofers have been around Wallsend Touch from the start.

Big-hearted small team needs a win

WHEN the Newcastle Wallsend Touch Association's next competition begins in May, there will be a team on the field that is much smaller than the others.

The team, Salties Juniors, has the right number of players but out of a squad of 15, there are only three adults.

The rest of the team, both boys and girls, is aged from nine to 14.

The team has played in a mixed adult competition with mixed success. Its final game is on Friday and so far it has drawn two games and lost the others.

The team was formed when several adults who were playing noticed that there was a bunch of children who watched the games and 'were hanging around on the sideline', team member Dennis Skinner said.

● BY MARGOT DATE

Dennis and two women are the only adults in the team and they give guidance to the younger players. There is always one male and one female adult on the field during games.

Dennis said the young players did not have the speed of the adults but had a great deal of ability and a never-ending supply of energy.

Players from other teams tended to be fairly careful when playing the younger team at first but soon played them the same as other teams when they began to score a few tries.

Dennis said he was keen to see more children playing touch football in the next competition. None of his players had suffered any serious injuries and they had all enjoyed playing very much.

● TEAM practice at Lewis Oval.

Home security expo P.22-23

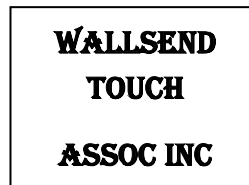
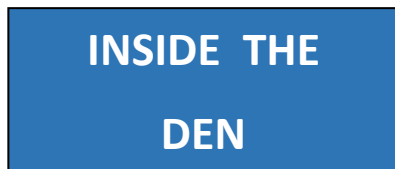
From these beginnings, some passionate members put the effort into to getting more Juniors involved in playing Touch. Ron Andrew, Debbie Sault, Debbie Swan and Raylene Russell put their heads together to start running Juniors at Wallsend. As Debbie Sault recalls, the many phone calls to schools, players etc, the mountains of paperwork – draws / referee cards, all done at home and in their own time.

In 1997 Wallsend Touch formed a separate committee to run their Junior side of the game. A group of dedicated parents formed this committee with Linda Knowles (as President) and Shane Farrell (Vice President) at the helm. Many of the parents played in the Senior Competition, so it wasn't unusual to see people 3 or 4 times a week. A real family atmosphere was created. No one played their game and went straight home, they would sit on the hill with a beer, mix and mingle while watching a few more games. No one was in a hurry; life was less complicated back then.

When the Junior Committee kicked off there were 670 children playing, 125 of those indigenous kids. The committee collaborated with Awabakal Elder Jimmy Wright in supporting many of our Indigenous kids to play Representative Touch. Taking the Rep teams away was a highlight of the Touch season. In Linda Knowles words "the best representative competitions were held at Penrith. One year we booked the players and families into a caravan park. On the Saturday night the committee took on the mammoth task of putting on a BBQ for all staying at the park. We may have started off as strangers that night but we made lifetime friends by the end of the weekend. Over my 39yrs being involved in Touch Football – this weekend was my absolute favourite".



Touch football is a great sport the whole family can get involved in, no matter what your skill level is. There aren't too many sports where kids, parents, uncles, aunts (and in some cases grandparents) can play in the same team. That's what Wallsend Touch was like in the 1990's very family orientated.



So fast forward to 2021



OUR NEW JUNIOR PRESIDENT

ROCHELLE STEVENS

Lets get to know her.

What did you have for dinner last night?

Tacos

What are you afraid of?

Birds

Last Touch Event?

Junior State Cup

Last movie seen?

Melan

Favourite NRL team?

Bulldogs as a child / Tigers now as a family

Favourite song?

Never tear us Apart.

What did you want to be when you grew up?

Lawyer.

How did you get started in Touch – The local footy club, where I grew up in Sydney started a touch Comp and my friends put in a team. I was 10.

What did you do last weekend

Went to Nelson Bay

Scariest thing you have done?

Ziplining in Hawaii jungle

Favourite movie?

A Star is Born

If you were to star in a movie,

Who would you be? Lady Gaga

Who would you take if stranded

On a desert Island? My Husband.

Favourite Band?

INXS.

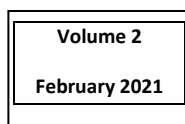
GALA DAY 12 – 18. SUNDAY 31st JANUARY 2021.

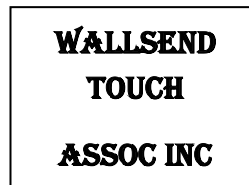
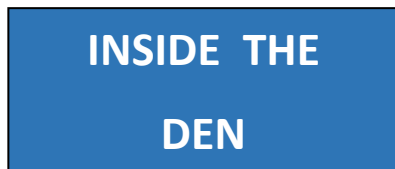
And that's a wrap for our 2021 Junior Rep Gala Day for the 12s to 18s age groups!

A big thank you to our Junior President, [Rochelle Lisa Stevens](#)

for the many hours she gives to bringing it all together. To our amazing committee and volunteers, you are always there when we need to get the job done!

We hope all the players, coaches, managers, and referees, who came from near and far, enjoyed the day. Thank you to Wilkins Prestige Painting for sponsoring the day!!





PETER WILSON MEMORIAL CHAMPIONSHIPS.

Joint runners up of the Club Championships. As a club we all worked together to achieve this great result, from players, parents and supporters, to coaches, managers, referees and club officials

12 Boys - Undefeated all weekend apart from falling short of a grandfinal berth by being beaten in the semi final.

12 Girls - 1 draw and a close 2 losses for the weekend- they played Berkeley Vale in 9th vs 10th play off winning 9-4 with only with 9 players for this last game!

14 Boys - A great weekend of results but stopped short in the quarter final losing to a strong Maitland side.

14 Girls - The girls were closely beaten in the quarter finals by a very impressive Doyalson team.

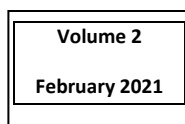
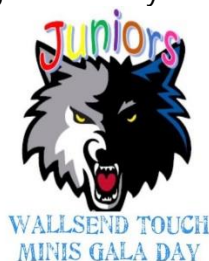
16 Boys - The boys missed out on the Quarters for Sunday, and winning the play off of 9th vs 10th against Nelson Bay!

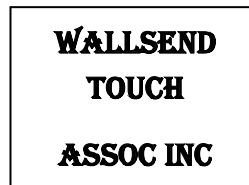
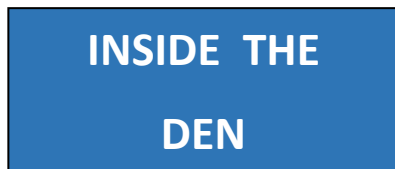
16 Girls - Woop Woop Number 1! Taking out the grandfinal in a nail biting drop off 3 on 3 was the best ending to a great weekend!

18 Boys - So close for this talented young team! They were just beaten by the coast in the semi final and went down 5-4 ...

18 Girls - Winner Winner Chicken Dinner! What an amazing weekend for our seniors of the juniors girls.

Our under 8 and 10s girls and boys teams finally got to play!





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NSW Touch Football - 2021 NSW JSC Northern Conference

It's not a Junior State Cup without rain, rain and more rain and games CANCELLED.

With a very heavy heart, NSW Touch has had no choice but to cancel the tournament. Looking at the pictures of the fields says it all.



Stay tuned for our March Edition.

