



2008 President's Report

Summary

In 2008 Tasmanian Ultimate had some fantastic results with multiple reps playing on Australian teams at the World Championships, some consolidation of previous good achievements, some growth and a couple of minor setbacks.

The highlights in 2008 were dominated by Tasmanian women, with the performance of the Tasmanian women's team, *Bush*, at Nationals, and the selection of two Tasmanian women to Australian teams playing at the World Championships in 2008. To balance these results from elite women players, two young men represented Australia on the Junior Open team as well.

The Tasmanian open team, the *Tassie Tiggers*, were unable to get a team to the Southern Australian Ultimate Championships, hence ending a proud six year run of Tasmanian Open teams attending National Championships. The inaugural schools Gala Day held in 2007 was unable to be repeated in 2008 and, due to a lack of available players, the University of Tasmania Ultimate team was also unable to form a team for the Australian University Games in 2008.

To continue with some highlights, 2008 marks eight years of continuous leagues in Hobart and the 10th year of the Tasmanian Two-Hat Ultimate Tournament. The TUA also supported three of the five Tasmanian juniors (Eliza Burke-Polden, Steve Wright and Michael Dunne) to attend the National Juniors training camp in January. Shannon Trenwith also received a development grant to attend the National Women's Pathway Development Camp.

Hobart Leagues

2008 has seen continuation of two divisions in the Monday night leagues in Spring and Summer with between four and six teams in each division. Autumn and Winter leagues were moved to a weekend time slot and a much improved indoor venue, the Aurora Sports Stadium, and featured a record eight teams in Autumn.

This year saw previous league organisers coming back for more (thanks to Joe Boyer, Dave Cooke, John Kristensen, Matt Smith and Basil van Riet). Thanks to Jeff Dunn for processing results for TUA leagues again and to all the new players for coming along to TUA social leagues, with special mentions to Shannon Trenwith and Emily Campbell for each bringing a team of new players to social league in Spring!

Two-Hat

Thanks to Matt Smith for directing his third highly successful Two-Hat Tournament. The Two-Hat X was forced to move fields once again, moving this time to the fields on Cornelian Bay. This required a little more infrastructure with the hiring of portaloos and shade tents being required. The Two-Hat also moved to a two day format for the first time ever. Unfortunately this move coincided with the smallest percentage of interstate players since the inaugural Two-Hat - perhaps mainlanders can't handle playing two days in Hobart's October heat? The number of Tasmanian players has increased in each of the last four Two-Hats, so at least the locals were not deterred by the two day format.

Thanks to the following people for helping Matt to run the tournament: Alysia Cullen; Shavawn Donoghue; Joe Boyer; John Kristensen; Mike Baker; Ash Martens; Tracey Coetzee; Stew Wilde, Charlie Prevost; and Pat Dunne.

Southern Australian Ultimate Championships

Due to an unfortunate alignment of stars, an early registration deadline (just prior to the regular arrival of North American university students) and the lack of availability of some key senior players, the *Tassie Tiggers* were unable to get a team to the Southern Australian Ultimate Championships in 2008.

While the women's team, *Bush*, faced similar problems, they did manage to get a small team to Adelaide to the Southern Australian Ultimate Championships and qualified in very hot conditions by finishing 4th out of the 5 teams from this region, having come into the tournament seeded 5th. Thanks to Shavawn Donoghue for running this team.

Australian Ultimate Championships

Having qualified for Nationals in Adelaide, *Bush*, had to travel across Bass Strait once again in 2008 to play Nationals in Coffs Harbour, where they finished a very impressive 7th place (seeded 12th). Thanks to *Bush* captain Shavawn Donoghue for organising this team.

The *Tiggers* didn't have enough bounce to play Nationals, failing to get a team to the qualifying tournament, ending a six year streak of Tasmanian teams playing nationals in the Open division.

Australian Mixed Ultimate Championships

A Tasmanian team, *LOG!*, captained by Shavawn Donoghue and with coaching assistance from Basil van Riet, travelled to Brisbane for Mixed Nationals in October 2008 and finished 22nd. Congratulations to Shavawn Donoghue for winning the Female Most Valuable Player award at this tournament.

University of Tasmania Ultimate

Lunch time pickup games continued in 2008 at the University of Tasmania, with fluctuating numbers at times, but returning to a games twice a week for some of the year.

Elite players

In August 2008, four Tasmanian players played on Australian representative teams at the World Ultimate and Guts Championships. Congratulations to: Eliza Burke-Polden, who played for Southern Terra, the Australian Junior Women's team, spirit winners and second overall; Ash Martens who played for the Firetails, fourth overall, the Australian Women's team; and Ashley Button and Michael Dunne who played for Aussie Thunder, the Australian Junior Open team, 6th overall.

The TUA also provided development grants to four Tasmanian players in 2008, supporting juniors and women in particular, to attend National training and development camps.

Administration

The TUA has maintained a strong financial position thanks to the work of Shavawn Donoghue as treasurer and due to the number of well run TUA tournaments and leagues throughout the year.

Finally, I would like to thank all the members of the TUA committee, and those who attended TUA committee meetings and helped run leagues and tournaments, for helping to make things happen. In particular I would like to thank Treasurer Shavawn Donoghue for her continued work, John Kristensen in his role as Vice-President and as acting President for several months in 2008 and Joe Boyer for his role as Secretary.

Joe Boyer is stepping down from his role as Secretary in 2009 after two years in the job. I would like to offer special thanks to Joe for his work as Secretary, as the TUA youth development officer and as a consultant for team selections and draws for tourneys and leagues, as well as his other contributions to Tasmanian Ultimate. I hope that Joe will continue to be able to contribute to the association, albeit in a lesser role. I look forward to seeing more people stepping up to help run ultimate in Tasmania in 2009.

Jemery Day.
TUA President