

LABRADOR “TIGERSTIX” HOCKEY CLUB

from the beginning ...

Chapter 1 - Establishment

Labrador Hockey Club was formed in 1967 as Labrador Hockey Club by committed parents of students from Labrador State School and began competing in the 1968 season. The Club was incorporated in 1984 and changed its name to Labrador Sports Club Inc in 1994 after the introduction of baseball as a summer sport for its members.

Founding club members acquired the right to use the site on Musgrave Avenue from Gold Coast City Council (GCCC) where one hockey field was constructed by members as seen in the picture below.



Figure 1- first hockey field constructed by members

A repurposed small wooden clubhouse was established on Musgrave Avenue. Subsequently, members gradually developed a second grass field. The family living on Musgrave Avenue where the units now stand provided permission to Labrador Hockey Club to use their land behind their house for hockey. This land was eventually provided to GCCC. Subsequently Club members volunteered their time, funds and in-kind support to continuously develop the playing facilities, that included five hockey fields and a baseball diamond.

Fields 3, 4, 5 and the baseball diamond area can be seen in the photo below.



Figure 2 - Fields 3 4 and 5 and baseball diamond

Hockey fields 1 and 2 can be seen in the picture below.



Figure 3 - fields 1 & 2

Two hockey fields on the western side of Hockey Lane were also available for carnivals. Gold Coast hockey fixtures were conducted each fortnight at Labrador Hockey Club's facilities.

Volunteers constructed a Clubhouse which included a canteen, limited licence bar area, toilets, showers, dressing rooms and control room. Three of the grass fields were floodlit for junior night competition and training, funded by members and in later years upgrades were assisted by grants.



Figure 4 - Main field viewing area outside clubhouse



Figure 5 - Clubhouse bar

In 1997 Club officials negotiated with Gold Coast Hockey Association (GCHA) to move from Palm Beach to Hunt Park as no suitable land was being made available by GCCC to establish a synthetic surface hockey pitch for the Gold Coast. Officials traded away three grass hockey fields and the baseball diamond to make way for the GCHA synthetic pitch and clubrooms. Baseball was no longer possible at Labrador Sports Club.



Figure 6 - Clubhouse view from synthetic field

The Club's vision to convert our number one hockey pitch from a grass surface to a quality synthetic surface was achieved in 2006 thanks to the generosity of Club families and local Councillors.

Previously, the Club had installed team dugouts, a six-cannon irrigation system, field width back nets, kerb and gutter drainage, fencing, water harvesting tanks and an electronic scoreboard. Club members then installed an inground sprinkler irrigation system to the remaining grass field and continued to maintain it to provide the highest quality grass hockey pitch.



Figure 7 – Labrador Tigerstix synthetic field from top of Clubhouse

Chapter 2 – Relocation

When City of Gold Coast (CoGC) was awarded the 2018 Commonwealth Games, the organising committee representatives approached Labrador Hockey Club in 2013 to discuss Club facilities being redeveloped to host the hockey competition in conjunction with GCHA facilities.

As the Club representatives were assured the Club would not be disadvantaged by any redevelopment, Labrador Hockey Club fully supported the redevelopment of facilities on that basis. With site redevelopment imminent, Labrador Tigerstix were required to relinquish their lease and all their facilities valued at \$1,650,000 to be demolished to make way for construction of the new Gold Coast Hockey Centre (GCHC) which was completed in May 2017.

CoGC representatives decided that only one body would control the future hockey precinct site and Labrador Hockey Club and GCHA, with guidance from Hockey Qld, were instructed to form a body to administer the new facility as a post Commonwealth Games legacy. From these negotiations Gold Coast Hockey Management Group (GCHMG) was born, establishing an equal partnership with the two previous lease holders – Labrador and GCHA.

During the GCHMG formation negotiations, Labrador Hockey Club was awarded the Club in residence at Gold Coast Hockey Centre (GCHC) in recognition of being the Club's home for the last 50 years. Labrador Tigerstix has subsequently developed its clubhouse with a bar area and seating for 80 patrons.



Figure 8 - New Labrador Tigerstix Clubhouse bar in GCHC precinct



Figure 9 – Labrador Tigerstix clubhouse in GCHC precinct

The Club was also awarded, as compensation for the demolition of its own synthetic hockey pitch, the first right of use on the eastern synthetic pitch at GCHC which is known as Labrador Families' Field.



Figure 10 - Labrador Families' Field (Junior Dev)



Figure 11 - Gold Coast Hockey Centre - Labrador turf and crowds outside Clubhouse (right end)

Chapter 3 – “Who are We?”

The Club caters for female and male participants in all junior and senior grades from four-year-olds through to Masters, and beginners to elite. In April 2022 Club membership was 238 juniors and 193 senior hockey players, 391 active participants. They made up 22 junior and 14 senior teams. Similar numbers started the season in 2020 and 2021 and despite coronavirus interruptions, we retained the majority of our players.

Labrador teams can be heard chanting the club warcry that began with BHL in 2007, at all special occasions, and especially after playing an intraclub match against another Labrador team.

*“Who are we? Who are we?
We are the team from LHC.
We’re on top, we’ll win the cup, and that’s a fact, Jack!
Labrador whoo aah, Labrador whoo aah, Labrador whoooo aaaaah”!*

Labrador Tigerstix has the highest participation rate for juniors on the Gold Coast, largely due to our professionally conducted Junior Hockey Development program which has been conducted since 1991. Labrador Tigerstix conducts lessons at primary schools from Ashmore to Gaven to expose children to the sport of hockey during February/March each year. Our newsletter mailing list includes 1,477 parents and supporters and we have a strong [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) following.



Figure 12 – Half time break for Tigerstix Rookies – Saturday morning Intraclub competition

Along with high participation rates, Club teams have successfully achieved many senior and junior premierships since formation. Labrador won all six Gold Coast senior premierships in 1998 including winning Division 1 Women for the fifth consecutive year. In 2003 Labrador won five of the six senior premierships including Division 1 Men and Women and five of the six junior premierships. Division 1 Men and Women were premiers in 2006. Division 1 Men and Women won the Gold Coast premiership in 2009 and again for the women it was five in a row. Division 1 Men are GCHA Premiers in 2021 and 2022.

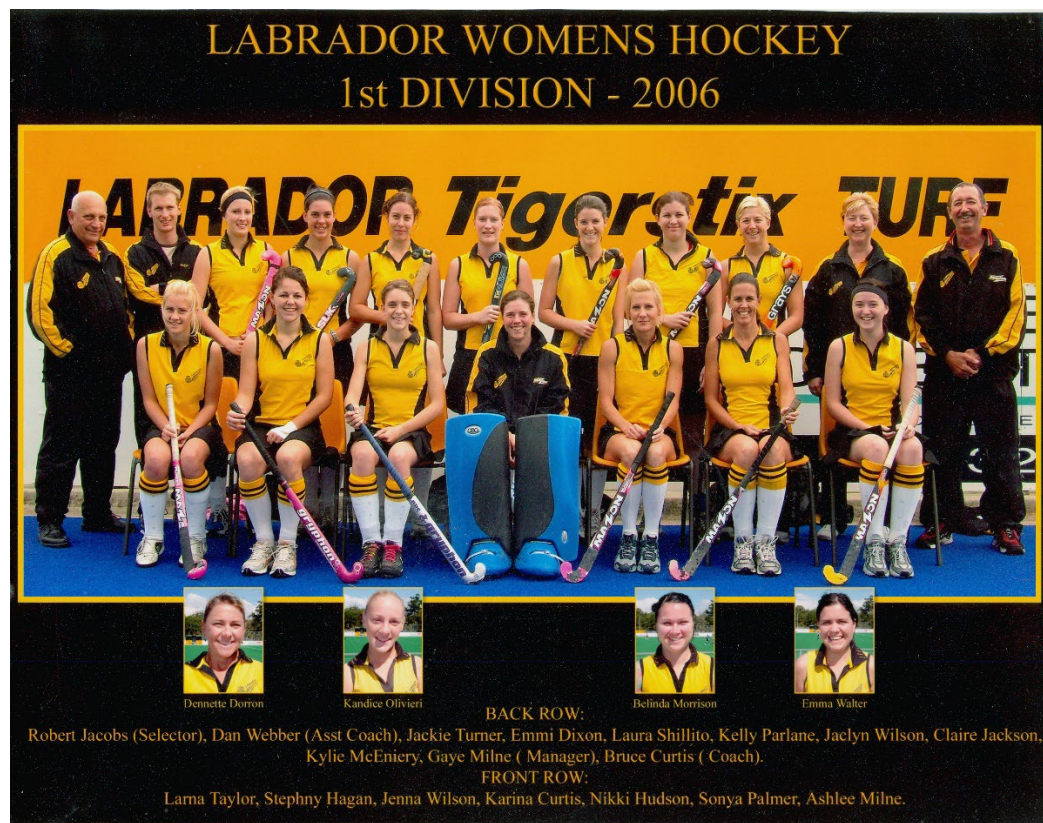


Figure 13 - Div 1 GCHA Women's premiers 2006

A Labrador Tigerstix Men's team was accepted into the Brisbane Hockey League Division 1 competition in 2007, finishing a creditable fifth. Since then BHL2 have secured the Premiership once while BHL1 have earned the right to contest the Grand Final three times, finally succeeding to win the cup in 2019 and again in 2020.

At Easter 2004, 2005 & 2006 the Club embarked on ambitious projects taking junior teams on overseas tours. Club officials escorted an emerging talent squad of Under 18 Girls and Under 16 boys on a nine-day tour of New Zealand North Island, Tasmania and New Zealand South Island respectively. The teams had wonderfully successful tours, both competitively and socially.

In 2004, Labrador Hockey Club organised its first international female player, a German Under 21 representative from Hamburg who spent the season living with club members and playing with distinction for Labrador Tigerstix. She was selected for the German National team in 2007. Labrador Tigerstix continues to support overseas players wishing to experience a season on the Gold Coast. Players from Boston, Philadelphia, Argentina, Barcelona, Brussels, Paris and London have enjoyed our hospitality.

The Club honour boards reveal an impressive record of State and National Representatives, playing and officiating. Special achievers who have been fostered by Labrador Hockey Club are Debbie Bowman-Sullivan, captain of the Australian Gold Medal winning team at the Seoul Olympics and Australian representatives Lee Litfin (nee McLeod) and Kandice Olivieri (now Shaw). Nikki Hudson, one of the world's best strikers was a member of the Division 1 women's team in 2003, 2005, 2006 and 2007.

Marnie Hudson was a member of the Australian Jillaroos Under 21 World Cup team in 2009 and was subsequently selected to represent the Australian Hockeyroos in 2011 and 2012. Corey Weyer, with Labrador since juniors, was selected in the Australian Kookaburras in 2018 and is still training in Perth with the Kookaburras. Brothers Dylan, Kookaburra and Blake Wotherspoon, Australian Burras Under 21 played BHL1 for Labrador Tigerstix. Luca Brown has represented the Burras since 2019.



Figure 14 - Dylan Wotherspoon & Corey Weyer



Figure 15 – Marnie Hudson, Hockeyroo & Karina Curtis – representing Australia 2007

Tigerstix are proud to have had the involvement of national coaches such as Carl Dalton at our club. Brent Livermore, Australian Kookaburra, who has been a member of Labrador Tigerstix BHL1 men's team from 2009 onwards, is currently coaching at national level and involved as head coach for the club.

LABRADOR HOCKEY CLUB					
AUSTRALIAN REPRESENTATIVES					
1984	DEBBIE BOWMAN	WOMEN	1984	DENNETTE DORRAN	OVER 35
	LEE MacLEOD	WOMEN		KYLIE McENIERY	OVER 35
1985	DEBBIE BOWMAN	WOMEN		GAIL LOMAS	OVER 45
	LEE MacLEOD	WOMEN		MEGAN WARD	OVER 50
1986	DEBBIE BOWMAN	WOMEN	2009	BRENT LIVERMORE	MEN
	LEE MacLEOD	WOMEN		MARNIE HUDSON	UNDER 21
1987	DEBBIE BOWMAN	WOMEN		BELINDA MORRISON	COUNTRY
1988	DEBBIE BOWMAN	WOMEN		SUE DALTON	OVER 35
	OLYMPIC GOLD MEDAL			DENNETTE DORRAN	OVER 40
1990	DEBBIE SULLIVAN	WOMEN		MEGAN WARD	OVER 50
1992	DEBBIE SULLIVAN	WOMEN	2010	MEGAN WARD	OVER 50
1998	DAVID REARDON	OVER 45	2011	MARNIE HUDSON	WOMEN
1999	DENNETTE DORRAN	COUNTRY		KANDICE OLIVIERI	WOMEN
	JO-ANNE ASH	OVER 35		EMMA WALTER	COUNTRY
	LEANNE FERGUSON	OVER 35	2012	MARNIE HUDSON	WOMEN
	DEBBIE SULLIVAN	OVER 35		SOPHIE RODDA	COUNTRY
	DAVID REARDON	OVER 45	2013	SOPHIE RODDA	COUNTRY
2000	DENNETTE DORRAN	COUNTRY		MEGAN WARD	OVER 55
	DEBBIE SULLIVAN	OVER 35	2014	JULIE ASHTON-LUCY	OVER 45
2001	TRUDY REDMAN	OVER 40		LEANNE FERGUSON	OVER 50
	DENNETTE DORRAN	COUNTRY		BELLE DAVIS	OVER 55
2002	BRAD PULEOSI	SCHOOL BOYS U.16		GAIL LOMAS	OVER 55
2003	NIKKI HUDSON	WOMEN		MEGAN WARD	OVER 55
	SONYA PALMER	OVER 35		OLIVER CRANE	BURRAS
	TRUDY FARRELL	OVER 40		COREY WEYER	YOUTH OLYMPICS
2005	NIKKI HUDSON	WOMEN	2015	JULIE ASHTON-LUCY	OVER 45
	CLAIRE JACKSON	COUNTRY		LEANNE FERGUSON	OVER 50
2006	NIKKI HUDSON	WOMEN		MEGAN WARD	OVER 55
	DENNETTE DORRAN	OVER 35		JOSHUA MCRAE	COUNTRY
2007	NIKKI HUDSON	WOMEN	2016	JOSH MCRAE	COUNTRY
	DENNETTE DORRAN	OVER 35		EMMA WALTER	COUNTRY
2008	CLAIR JACKSON	COUNTRY		JEREMY STEPHENS	COUNTRY UNDER 21
	BELINDA MORRISON	COUNTRY		MATT RILEY	OVER 40
2016	JULIE ASHTON-LUCY	OVER 50			
	LEANNE FERGUSON	OVER 50			
	MEGAN WARD	OVER 55			
2017	COREY WEYER	KOOKABURRAS & UNDER 21			
	DYLAN WOTHERSPOON	KOOKABURRAS			
	BLAKE WOTHERSPOON	UNDER 21			
	PHIL DUMPLETON	COUNTRY			
	JEREMY STEPHENS	COUNTRY			
	BROOKE ANDERSON	COUNTRY			
	SAM BASILE	COUNTRY UNDER 21			
	DENNETTE DORRAN	OVER 45			
	JULIE ASHTON-LUCY	OVER 50			
	SONYA PALMER	OVER 50			
	MEGAN WARD	OVER 40			
2018	COREY WEYER	KOOKABURRAS			
	DYLAN WOTHERSPOON	KOOKABURRAS			
	BUNNIE WOTHERSPOON	UNDER 21			
	PHIL DUMPLETON	COUNTRY			
	JEREMY STEPHENS	COUNTRY			
	BROOKE ANDERSON	COUNTRY			
	SAM BASILE	COUNTRY UNDER 21			
	SHARON CLARKE	OVER 35			
	JULIE ASHTON-LUCY	OVER 50 C			
	SONYA PALMER	OVER 50			
	LEANNE FERGUSON	OVER 35			
	MEGAN WARD	OVER 40 C			
	JOSH BAXTER	COUNTRY UNDER 21			
2019	JULIE ASHTON LUCY	OVER 50			
	KATRINA BAYLON	OVER 55			
	MEGAN WARD	OVER 40			
	CRAIG BIGHAM	OVER 35			
	COREY WEYER	KOOKABURRAS			
	DYLAN WOTHERSPOON	KOOKABURRAS			
	LUKA BROWN	UNDER 21			
2020	COREY WEYER	KOOKABURRAS			
	DYLAN WOTHERSPOON	KOOKABURRAS			

Figure 16 - Australian Representative Honour Board.

Chapter 3 – “Who are We?”

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Figure 17 - Queensland Representative Honour Boards Part 1 & 2

Figure 18 - NSW Representative Honour Board

Julie Ashton-Lucy, former international “Golden Whistle” umpire, and her daughters have played for the club for many years. Ranked number 1 Women’s International Umpire at the 2002 World Cup, Julie continued to officiate at the 2006, 2010 and 2014 World Cups and umpired at the Athens, Beijing and London Olympics blowing the Gold Medal match in London before retirement from International Umpiring.



Figure 19 - Julie Ashton Lucy, International Umpire

The Club is very proud of its achievements and its family culture and continues to operate under its motto **“Families Growing Together in Sport”**.



Figure 20 - Tigerstix 'Cubs' Junior Development with coach of the day Corey Weyer, current Australian Kookaburra