



2009-10

# SKYTRANS CAIRNS TAIPANS COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT REPORT



---

**Produced By:**  
**Joel Khalu**  
**Skytrans Cairns Taipans**  
**Community & Operations Manager**  
**Thursday, 1 July 2010**

---



---

## 2009-10 Community Engagement Overview:

After the transition to become a not-for-profit community organisation, the Skytrans Cairns Taipans NBL club made a commitment for the 2009-2010 year to establish a new level of community engagement delivering positive lifestyle choices across a variety of community organisations.

The main goal of this commitment included expanding on currently existing partnerships and the creation of new partnerships within schools, community groups and corporate sponsors to maximise the positive benefits for the people of Far North Queensland.

Over the 12-month period, the club achieved a total of 512 community engagement appearances which were implemented in a number of different strategies and programs. Many new initiatives were specifically designed by the club to help increase the number of community engagement appearances by players, coaches and staff and included –

- **TINY TAIPANS:**

The 'Tiny Taipans' Program is an Aussie Hoops Basketball Development Program for kids aged 5-years to 9-years. This program is delivered on Saturday mornings in partnership with Cairns Basketball by CBI Development Officer Travis Thorne and is co-facilitated by Skytrans Cairns Taipans coaches Aaron Fearné & Mick Downer, while Community & Operations Manager Joel Khalu assists when these coaches are on road trips. Skytrans Cairns Taipans senior players and academy members also assist with the delivery of each 'Tiny Taipans' session.

The first season of the 2009 'Tiny Taipans' program concluded on Saturday, December 5. Fourteen 'Tiny Taipans' sessions were conducted in total and the program finished with 85 registered 'Tiny Taipans' participants, which was a significant increase from last season's basic Aussie Hoops program which only had 32 registered participants who participated in the same age bracket. In its first season this program has had huge success, in-part mostly to the hard work of CBI Development Officer Travis Thorne who has built the program through both his session planning & delivery and his school visitations where his clinics are targeted at year three aged students.

The 2010 'Tiny Taipans' autumn season program was launched on Saturday, March 6 with 84 participants in attendance. The autumn 2010 program was implemented over 14-sessions and concluded concluding on Saturday, June 19.

- **LOCAL COACH DEVELOPMENT COURSES:**

The Skytrans Cairns Taipans conducted coaching courses for local club basketball coaches to assist with their coach development. These developmental courses were conducted by Skytrans Cairns Taipans Coaches Aaron Fearné and Mick Downer and Taipans Academy Coach / Community & Operations Manger, Joel Khalu.

The first Taipans induction coach development course was delivered by Joel Khalu which had 20 new participants. Mick Downer also delivered a Taipans coaching clinic for the Phoenix Basketball club with the assistance of former Townsville Crocodiles player and assistant coach, Shane Froling from Townsville.

Aaron Fearné has also delivered a development clinic to the All-Stars Basketball club on Friday, April 30 with the assistance of Mick Downer.

The last coach development course was facilitated by Mick Downer for the Redlynch Basketball club on Sunday, June 6.

- **CAIRNS BASKETBALL CLUB AMBASSADOR PROGRAM:**

The Skytrans Cairns Taipans are committed to supporting the continual development of club basketball in the Far North Queensland region. As part of this commitment to the community, the Skytrans Cairns Taipans have developed a Club Ambassador program which directly links their National Basketball League players to junior basketball clubs. Through this partnership, Skytrans Cairns Taipans players assist with club development through their attendance and support at training sessions, coaching clinics, game-day fixtures and annual presentation events.

The Skytrans Cairns Taipans Club Ambassador program was launched with great success in October. All players are currently aligned with CBI Junior clubs along with the Mulgrave Coastal Basketball Association. Since its launch, the Club Ambassador program has had much positive feedback. Basketball clubs have been very proactive in utilising their 'Taipans Ambassadors' for club trainings, game-day junior fixtures and club presentation events.

|                                      |   |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| <b>ALLSTARS BASKETBALL CLUB:</b>     | <b>Phill Jones &amp; Tony Rampton</b>     |
| <b>CHOICE CATS BASKETBALL CLUB:</b>  | <b>Deba George</b>                        |
| <b>MULGRAVE BASKETBALL CLUB:</b>     | <b>Gary Boodnikoff &amp; Rowan Gray</b>   |
| <b>PHOENIX BASKETBALL CLUB:</b>      | <b>Dusty Rychart &amp; Kerry Williams</b> |
| <b>REDLYNCH BASKETBALL CLUB:</b>     | <b>Aaron Grabau &amp; Ian Crosswhite</b>  |
| <b>SAINTS BASKETBALL CLUB:</b>       | <b>Skip Mills &amp; Michael Chitham</b>   |
| <b>TIMBERWOLVES BASKETBALL CLUB:</b> | <b>Rich Melzer &amp; Dwayne Vale</b>      |

- **'SUBWAY' SO YOU THINK YOU CAN PLAY**

The Subway 'So You Think You Can Play' program is the Skytrans Cairns Taipans Primary school's initiative. Schools are invited to send in video footage challenging the Skytrans Cairns Taipans to a basketball game and then the team visits the school to play against the school's designated team. These games carry all the hype and events of traditional Skytrans Cairns Taipans game-days including player introductions, anthems, crowd chants and guest appearances by mascot Joe Blake.

To date, the Subway 'So You Think You Can Play' concept has been greatly received by schools in the district. Nine games were played from August to December in 2009.

|                                     |  |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| <b>St Joseph's School:</b>          | <b>approximately 500 students and guests in attendance</b> |
| <b>Woree State School:</b>          | <b>approximately 650 students and guests in attendance</b> |
| <b>Redlynch State College:</b>      | <b>approximately 900 students and guests in attendance</b> |
| <b>Yarrabah State School:</b>       | <b>approximately 400 students and guests in attendance</b> |
| <b>Our Lady Help of Christians:</b> | <b>approximately 500 students and guests in attendance</b> |
| <b>Trinity Anglican School:</b>     | <b>approximately 400 students and guests in attendance</b> |
| <b>Mother of Good Counsel:</b>      | <b>approximately 400 students and guests in attendance</b> |
| <b>Cairns West State School:</b>    | <b>approximately 500 students and guests in attendance</b> |
| <b>Port Douglas State School:</b>   | <b>approximately 500 students and guests in attendance</b> |

The Subway 'So You Think You Can Play' program was delivered to the following schools in the first semester of 2010.

|                                    |   |
|------------------------------------|---|
| <b>Yarrabah State School:</b>      | <b>approximately 400 students and guests in attendance</b>  |
| <b>Whitfield State School:</b>     | <b>approximately 1000 students and guests in attendance</b> |
| <b>St Gerard Majella's School:</b> | <b>approximately 450 students and guests in attendance</b>  |
| <b>Isabella State School:</b>      | <b>approximately 250 students and guests in attendance</b>  |

As part of the clubs marketing scheme, all children in attendance were given Skytrans Cairns Taipans merchandise including posters & stickers along with a voucher redeemable for a free Skytrans Cairns Taipans home-game ticket.

- **CAPE & COMMUNITY**

In partnership with Skytrans the club had a very successful visit to Mt Isa. As part of this visit, players Dwayne Vale, Kerry Williams and Community & Operations Manager Joel Khalu visited the remote community to assist with the promotion of Skytrans new flights, conduct a number of school visits, increase the club's profile through live Zinc Radio broadcasts and attend a function held by the local basketball association.

In partnership with QLD Health the club had a successful visit to the Western Cape community of Napranum. As part of this visit, players Gary Boodnikoff, Kerry Williams and Community & Operations Manager Joel Khalu visited the Indigenous community and over two days delivered a number of basketball clinics and healthy lifestyle talks to more than 150 Indigenous kids.

A number of different programs have also been delivered in the Yarrabah Aboriginal community.

- **COMMUNITY GAME NIGHT**

The club partnered with the Cancer Council of Queensland to host a themed 'PINK' night on October 24. With the assistance of the Skytrans Cairns Taipans the event raised over \$2800.00 for breast cancer awareness. The club also partnered with COUCH (Committee for Oncology Unit at Cairns Hospital) for a similar fundraising event at the last home game of the season, where the club will had a yellow theme. This event raised \$1200.00 for the COUCH cause.

- **'FIND YOUR 30' COMMUNITY WALK**

The 'Find Your 30' Community Walk was held on six Monday afternoons throughout November & December at 5pm on the Cairns Esplanade. This community walk promoted the QLD Governments 'Find Your 30' campaign, which encourages Queenslanders to become more active & healthy. As part of this program the Skytrans Cairns Taipans have also partnered with the Cairns Region Council's Fun Free Fitness program to help encourage more Cairns residents to get involved.

## 2009-10 Community Engagement Summary:

| PLAYER / COACH                                 | COMPLETED ENGAGEMENT PROMOTIONS |
|--|---------------------------------|
| Dwayne Vale                                    | 50                              |
| Kerry Williams                                 | 50                              |
| Aaron Grabau                                   | 44                              |
| Aaron Fearne                                   | 39                              |
| Gary Boodnikoff                                | 38                              |
| Dusty Rychart                                  | 38                              |
| Mick Downer                                    | 37                              |
| Ian Crosswhite                                 | 36                              |
| Deba George                                    | 34                              |
| Joe Blake                                      | 33                              |
| Phill Jones                                    | 32                              |
| Rich Melzer                                    | 29                              |
| Skip Mills                                     | 26                              |
| Tony Rampton                                   | 26                              |
| <b>TOTAL COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT APPEARANCES:</b> | <b>512</b>                      |

---

## 2009-10 Completed Community Engagement Promotions Include:

### JULY 2009:

- 15-July: Active After School & Diabetes QLD promotion at St Joseph's school – Joel, Kerry & Deba
- 24-July: Cairns Youth Justice Basketball Game at CBI – Deba presented certificates to players
- 25-July: Cairns Basketball Juniors Meet & Greet – All players & coaches attended a junior basketball day
- 29-July: Sportsworld new dance class launch – Dusty & Ian participated in the first new dance class
- 30-July: Trinity Anglican School Basketball Clinic – Kerry & Dwayne conducted a clinic at T.A.S

---

### AUGUST 2009:

- 1-August: ZINC FM Inside Broadcast – All players attended a ZINC FM inside broadcast
- 2-August: Planet Ark Tree Planting Event – Ian assisted with tree planting in Mt Sheridan  
Cairns Basketball Induction Coaching Course – Joel conducted a free community course at CBI
- 5-August: Adventist School Spirit Visit – Entire team visited the school after the passing away of one of the school's students
- 6-August: Joe Blake sick girl home visit (Mater Foundation) – Joe visited sick girl at her home in Bayview
- 9-August: Mater Foundation Walk – Mark, Joel, Dwayne, Aaron & Joe Blake participated in the walk
- 12-August: St Andrews Prep School visit – Players talked to the students about the importance of eating health & exercise and then conducted a basketball clinic for the students  
So You Think You Can Play – St Joseph's
- 15-August: Tiny Taipans Aussie Hoops Launch – All players and coaches attended the launch of the new Tiny Taipans program at Cairns Basketball  
Caravonica State School Country Fair – Phill, Ian, Dusty & Gary attended the school's fete
- 16-August: Queensland Schools Basketball Welcome Dinner – Aaron Fearne was guest speaker at event
- 18-August: Queensland Schools Basketball Presentations – Dusty & Rich presented medals to athletes  
Active After School Sporting Passes Challenge at Holy Cross – Joel, Dwayne, Kerry & Gary conducted clinics at Holy Cross school in Smithfield as part of this event
- 19-August: So You Think You Can Play – Woree State School
- 22-August: Tiny Taipans 2009 Session #2  
Festival Cairns Grand Parade – All staff, players & coached participated in the parade
- 24-August: Woree High School role-model request – Joel delivered a motivational talk to WSHS students
- 27-August: Redlynch State College Prep-school visit - Players talked to the students about the importance of eating health & exercise and then conducted a basketball clinic for the students
- 28-August: UMI Arts Markets on Esplanade – Joel, Kerry & Deba attended the Indigenous focused Markets
- 29-August: Tiny Taipans 2009 Session #3

---

## **SEPTEMBER 2009:**

- 3-September: Bentley Park Father's Day Event – After school event celebrating Father's Day
  - 4-September: Zinc FM Amateurs Event – Outside Broadcast from the Zinc FM tent at Amateurs on Ladies Day
  - 5-September: Tiny Taipans 2009 Session #4
  - 9-September: Bentley Park College 3on3 – The finals of the school's 3on3 comp – Tony, Phill & Joel  
Child Protection Family Fun Day at Fogarty Park – Dusty, Gary, Rich & Skip shooting hoops
  - 11-September: St Joseph's Fete – Dwayne, Ian, Kerry, Deba & Joel working the BBQ at the fete
  - 12-September: Tiny Taipans 2009 Session #5  
Rotary Duck Day event at Esplanade – All players and coaches shooting hoops on the van
  - 15-September: St Francis Under 8's Fun Activity Day – Joel & Joe Blake shot hoops with the kids at the School
  - 16-September: So You Think You Can Play – Redlynch State College
  - 21-September: ATSIBA National Championships Opening Ceremony – Mark Beecroft welcoming everybody  
Club Corporate Launch at the Casino – Official corporate launch with all players and coaches
  - 25-September: ATSIBA National Championships Closing Ceremony – Kerry presented trophies and medals
  - 30-September: Indinji Working Bee – Dwayne, Rich, Kerry & Deba helping out at Indinji Community Centre
- 

## **OCTOBER 2009:**

- 2-October: Hospital Foundation Cheque Presentation – Joe Blake & Mark presenting Cheque to Hospital
  - 10-October: Tiny Taipans 2009 Session #6
  - 12-October: Mt Isa Community Visit – Dwayne, Kerry & Joel doing school visits and community function
  - 13-October: Mt Isa Community Visit – Dwayne, Kerry & Joel doing school visits and radio broadcast  
Cairns State High School Alumni Basketball game – Kerry Williams attending Cairns High game
  - 14-October: So You Think You Can Play – Yarrabah State School
  - 16-October: All-stars Club Training day – Tony & Phill helping with All-stars club day
  - 17-October: Tiny Taipans 2009 Session #7  
Club Ambassador Program launch – All players and coaches at CBI for Ambassador Launch
  - 20-October: So You Think You Can Play – Our Lady Help of Christians School
  - 24-October: Tiny Taipans 2009 Session #8  
Zinc FM Sportscene Broadcast – James & Joel at outside broadcast at Sportscene
  - 30-October: Girls Nite In event – Joe Blake attending Girls night in function at the airport
  - 31-October: Tiny Taipans 2009 Session #9
-

---

## **NOVEMBER 2009:**

- 3-November: School ticket drop - Joel, Phill & Tony delivering tickets to locals students in schools
- 5-November: So You Think You Can Play – Trinity Anglican School, Kewarra Beach Campus
- 7-November: Tiny Taipans 2009 Session #10  
Vibe 3 on 3 Community Event – Kerry & Deba attended the opening ceremony of this event
- 12-November: Launch of the K-Mart Wishing Tree Appeal – Joel & Joe Blake attended at the Smithfield Centre
- 13-November: Isabella State School new building opening – Joel & Joe Blake attending the official opening of the school's new building
- 14-November: Tiny Taipans 2009 Session #11  
McHappy Day – Mark, Joe Blake and the Cheerleaders attended McHappy Day at 4 stores
- 16-November: 'Find Your 30' Community Walk – All players participated in the walk on the Esplanade  
Hoops Kuranda Style – Joel, Deba & Rowan conducted clinics in Kuranda
- 19-November: So You Think You Can Play – Mother of Good Counsel
- 21-November: Tiny Taipans 2009 Session #12
- 23-November: 'Find Your 30' Community Walk – All players participated in the walk on the Esplanade  
Hoops Kuranda Style – Joel, Deba & Rowan conducted clinics in Kuranda
- 25-November: Wuchopperen White Ribbon Day – Joel Rowan & Deba attended this event at Wuchopperen  
Bentley Park College 3on3 comp – The finals of the school's 3on3 comp – Deba, Rowan & Joel
- 27-November: Tiny Taipans 2009 Session #13  
Cairns Basketball Junior Presentations Day – Coaches attended and assisted with presentations  
Jetset Travel World Group Convention – All players attended this and conducted a showcase
- 30-November: 'Find Your 30' Community Walk – All players participated in the walk on the Esplanade  
Hoops Kuranda Style – Joel, Deba & Rowan conducted clinics in Kuranda

---

## **DECEMBER 2009:**

- 5-December: Tiny Taipans 2009 Session #14 – last Tiny Taipans session for the year
- 7-December: 'Find Your 30' Community Walk  
Hoops Kuranda Style
- 8-December: So You Think You Can Play – Cairns West State School
- 9-December: Launch of Operation Rudolf at the Cairns City Council
- 10-December: So You Think You Can Play – Port Douglas State School
- 13-December: Carols by Candlelight – Fogarty Park
- 14-December: 'Find Your 30' Community Walk
- 17-December: Christmas Visit to St John's Community Young Lifestyle Care
- 19-December: Operation Rudolf – Fundraising Event for the Abused Child Trust
- 26-December: Boxing Day Community Ticket Promotion at Stockland Cairns
- 29-December: Community Night Sports Program at Cairns Basketball

---

## **JANUARY 2010:**

- 5-January: Community Night Sports Program at Cairns Basketball
  - 7-January: Community Ticket Promotion at Stockland Cairns
  - 15-January: Youth Presentation Event at Indinji Community Centre – Joel, Deba & Rowan helped present awards
  - 20-January: Cairns Has Talent Promotion at Cairns Central – Aaron & Dwayne helped judge the competition
  - 22-January: Zinc FM Business Luncheon – Phill, Gary, Dwayne, Ian & Tony attended the luncheon  
FNQ Super League All-Star event – Skip & Rich helped judge the Slam Dunk competition
  - 26-January: Members Family Fun Day at Pelicans at Paradise (postponed due to weather)
- 

## **FEBRUARY 2010:**

- 2-February: So You Think You Can Play – Yarrabah State School
  - 6-February: Cairns Basketball Junior Sign-On – Deba and Michael attended the Sign-On event
  - 9-February: Community Event at PCYC Yarrabah – Joel, Kerry & Dwayne conducted a Basketball Clinic
  - 12-February: Innisfail Basketball Sign-On – Players attended and conducted a clinic at the Innisfail PCYC sign-on
  - 17-February: ABC Learning Centre – Players and Coaches attended an ABC Learning Centre to play with kids
  - 24-February: Mossman Basketball Association – Players visited 5 schools in Mossman and conducted clinics
  - 28-February: Innisfail 'Find Your 30' Basketball Clinic – Players conducted clinic at Innisfail State College
- 

## **MARCH 2010:**

- 4-March: Hambledon State School – Dwayne visited the school to conduct a clinic for Year 3 students
  - 6-March: Tiny Taipans 2010 Aussie Hoops Launch – Players and coaches attended the 2010 program launch
  - 11-March: Djarragun College Basketball Clinic – Mick conducted a clinic for Djarragun College students at CBI
  - 13-March: Tiny Taipans 2010 – Session #2
  - 18-March: Djarragun College Basketball Clinic – Mick conducted a clinic for Djarragun College students at CBI
  - 19-March: Hoops 4 Health in Alice Springs – Gary, Dwayne, Deba, Kerry & Joel attended H4H event in the N.T
  - 20-March: Tiny Taipans 2010 – Session #3
  - 21-March: FNQ Super League Presentations Event – Aaron, Mick & Dwayne presented trophies
  - 26-March: TAFE Community Recreation Basketball Clinic – Joel & Travis delivered clinic to Cert II TAFE students
  - 27-March: Tiny Taipans 2010 – Session #4
  - 30-March: Peace Lutheran College Student Showcase – Joe Blake, Kerry & Ian attended Peace Lutheran school
-

---

## **APRIL 2010:**

- 1-April: So You Think You can Play – Whitfield State School
- 8-April: Mooroolbool Easter Event – Joel, Kerry, Dwayne & Ian conducted community clinics for kids
- 17-April: Tiny Taipans 2010 – Session #5
- 24-April: Tiny Taipans 2010 – Session #6
- 30-April: Napranum Community Cape Visit – Gary, Kerry & Joel doing basketball clinics at local PCYC  
All-stars Basketball Club Clinic – Aaron & Mick delivered a development clinic to all club members
- 

## **MAY 2010:**

- 1-May: Tiny Taipans 2010 – Session #7
- 7-May: Walk to School Day, St Andrews School – Mark helped a number of students walk to school  
WuChopperen Domestic Violence Prevention Event – Kerry & Grabau attended event
- 8-May: Tiny Taipans 2010 – Session #8
- 12-May: So You Think You Can Play – St Gerard Majella
- 13-May: Cairns School of Distance Education Basketball Clinic – Travis delivered a clinic to remote students
- 15-May: Tiny Taipans 2010 – Session #9
- 18-May: Kuranda State College Charter Signing Event – Aaron & Kerry attended Charter signing event
- 20-May: Yarrabah Deadly Sports Program – Joel & Kerry delivered clinics at the Yarrabah PCYC
- 21-May: So You Think You Can Play – Isabella State School
- 22-May: Tiny Taipans 2010 – Session #10  
McDonalds 'McCHAPPY' Day for Chaplains – Dusty & Joe Blake attended a number of McDonalds
- 25-May: Education Week Principal for a Day, Hambleton State School – Joel was Principal for a day
- 29-May: Tiny Taipans 2010 – Session #11
- 

## **JUNE 2010:**

- 5-June: Tiny Taipans 2010 – Session #12
- 6-June: Redlynch Basketball Club Day – Mick, Grabau, Gary & Dusty assisted with clinics
- 11-June: Sea Temple Golf Day – Mark participated in charity Golf Day
- 12-June: Tiny Taipans 2010 – Session #13
- 19-June: Tiny Taipans 2010 – Session #14  
Cairns Basketball Junior Grand Finals day – Players presented trophies to winning teams