



FOOTBALL FEDERATION  
**TASMANIA**

## FROM THE DESK OF THE TECHNICAL DIRECTOR

4 JUNE, 2010

It has been an extremely busy week.

Last Friday I watched games in Bridgewater involving some smaller clubs, such as New Norfolk and Springfield. It was worth it, especially with the discovery of one outstanding 11 year old.

On Sunday I was at Sandown Park, Sandy Bay, for a training session with the southern development under 14 males. The team, coached by Nick Lapolla, is training on a weekly basis in preparation for carnivals in Launceston and Hobart later this year.

These carnivals are significant for all the players who take part, male and female, because they are an important part of the identification process for prospective State players for 2011.

Sunday's session went over some basics of the 1-4-3-3 system, which all FFT development teams will play, concentrating on the roles of the back four and midfield.

Monday I went to Launceston for a session with the northern based State players. A system was introduced this year by which all northern based players are able to practice twice in week in the north - once in Devonport, once in Launceston - and travel at weekends for competitive league games in Hobart. Southern Development Officer Kurt Reynolds is in charge of training the northern players. This arrangement is proving highly successful and popular with parents of northern players.

Tuesday I had a session with the under 12 Tilford Zebras males at the invitation of coach Brett Pullen, also coach of the southern development under 13 males squad. The practice, watched by a number of Zebras coaches, was based on passing under pressure and switching play, ending with a very demanding 1 v 1 exercise. I was impressed with the quality and work ethic of all the players.

Wednesday I journeyed to Devonport for a junior clinic/camp run at Meercroft Park. More than 120 players of various ages took part in a very well organized and successful event. I am impressed with the facilities at Meercroft Park, where there is room for hundreds of players at any one time. A number of players were identified as candidates for our forthcoming Centres of Excellence and State teams.

Yesterday I was at a junior clinic/camp run organized by Jake Undy, director of coaching on the Eastern shore. This was another successful event, with well over 150 children involved. Again, a number of players were identified for future advanced development pathways.

My thanks to all those coaches and volunteers who have run or helped at clinics and camps across Tasmania this week and who will be doing the same next week. Without such dedication and enthusiasm our beautiful game will not flourish as well as it is.

Next week will be equally busy, with a junior licence course this weekend at KGV field in Hobart - there are still places available, cost \$75 - and then a scheduled trip to a camp in Burnie on Monday.