

## Australian National 70's WF Team Selection Trials

On the weekend of 4th Feb, on the Central Coast of NSW, the 70+ Walking Football International Team Development Committee (WFITDT) held their first selection and training trial for walking football players over 70 from around Australia. The session was led by Harry Hubball, an internationally renowned small field coach and researcher who maintains a close relationship with FIFA.

Four of the 16 invited attendees were members of Brisbane Walking Football Inc - Chris Skeet, Wally Vicig, Siggie Nowak and Alan Barrow.



The practical sessions included strategic play, positional combinations, set pieces and offensive/defensive strategies. There was also a 1.5hrs session on body maintenance, exercise options, keeping fit mentally, and planning alternatives before and after a tournament for individuals and as a team.

A dinner held in the evening provided lots of opportunities for players to mix and bond socially.

Sunday saw the 16 invitees divided into two teams to play each other in competitive sessions of walking football while selectors (including ex Soccerroo Paul Wade) analysed individual performance on the field.

The final session enabled everyone (including the selectors and assistants) to be involved in a round robin tournament with teams from Central Coast and Pittwater/Woolongong.

The processes being developed by this Committee will be used as a template for the selection of future Over 50's and Over 60's national teams (both male and female) currently being organised through the Australian Walking Football National Forum.

Currently there are approximately 55 players around Australia who have put their hands up to be considered for a place in the Walkeroos Over 70s team to play in local and international competitions.

Additional selection trials were held in Brisbane on 25th March and in Sydney on 1st April. These will provide more players an opportunity to be viewed by selectors. Nick Bron, coordinator of the selection committee said "Due to grandparent/family duties/responsibilities may and the inevitable travel budget constrains we will always have some players not being able to attend some tournaments so our committee are keen to foster a larger pool of players. Everyone appreciates that players are not getting any younger and that injuries and health issues become more prevalent with age."

We wish our fellow WFB Inc 70s members every success in their endeavours.