

TASMANIAN UNDER 19 WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL TEAM

28th September – 3rd October 2015

AUSTRALIAN JUNIOR VOLLEYBALL CHAMPIONSHIPS

Tasmania had not been represented at these championships for at least eight years. We considered the 2015 championships a great opportunity for our aspiring junior athletes; matching it with the best young athletes in Australia and being exposed to a higher level of competition that will aid the personal development of each member of the team. It also provided an excellent opportunity to develop as a team and to represent our wonderful state at a national level.

A team of 11 girls and several support staff selected to travel to Canberra on 27th September and return to Hobart on 3rd October 2015. Through tireless fundraising efforts by the support group, athletes and coaches during the year conducted a quiz

night, barbecues, raffles and sold an enormous amount of chocolates. We received a few donations from business such as Bruny Island Cheese Co., Bendigo Bank Hobart, Retro Fudge Cafe, Bennett's Petroleum, Woolworths stores, both Clarence and Kingborough councils and Senator Jacquie Lambie. Most of the team has been enrolled and trained within the Elizabeth College Athlete Development Program (ADP) for a number of years in Hobart in partnership with Volleyball Tasmania. Since February 2015 the ADP was replaced by the Tasmanian Volleyball Academy. These students represented a wide cross section of Southern Tasmanian communities and secondary/college schools. Each of them committed to multiple



weekly training sessions (technical, fitness and strength/conditioning) in addition to their normal schooling commitments.

Highlights

- Playing Volleyball for the State
- Hanging with our team mates
- Meeting new volleyball friends; bonding with the NSW team
- Learning new skills from our opponents
- Life goals achieved



Tasmania & New South Wales U19

AT THE CHAMPS

After a 3-hour plus bus trip from Sydney airport with much excitement the team arrived in Canberra. The opening ceremony was attended by all athletes competing at the championships and the Tasmanian team received honourable mention, welcoming us back after a significant hiatus. During the championships, the Tasmanian team performed well above expectations.



They matched it with the best of junior women's volleyballers from across the nation and New Zealand. The girls showed great sportsmanship and team unity.

Every match versus a rival state showed the Tassie girls' fighting spirit and, when it counted, the girls lifted and held their own in each set played.

The team was highly commended on several occasions on their attitudes and sportsmanship by referees, coaches and organisers of the event. It was a great opportunity and each athlete received invaluable experience performing on the national stage and against the best in the country.

Many thanks to the following people for their support: Peter and Karen Johnson, Peter and Dana Hutchinson, Andrew and Jenny Macquarie and Stephen Ibbott: without your contribution and support, the trip would not have eventuated.

Well done to the following athletes — you have done your state proud: Gilly Millar, Stevie Dwyer, Natalie Darko, Emily Macquarie, Sarah Macquarie, Tahlia Kitson, Tarni Fairfield, Tiarna Bakowski, Liv McKee, Kate Choraziak and Tara Johnson (c)