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Australia's Best Touch Footballers - Ready to Compete at Coffs!**2013 X-Blades National Touch League and return of the Elite 8 Series****MEDIA RELEASE**

Australia's best Touch Footballers will converge on the BCU International Stadium in Coffs Harbour this week, to compete in the 2013 Touch Football Australia X-Blades National Touch League (NTL) and the return of the showcase event – the Elite 8 Series.

Over 100 teams across 14 divisions will participate at this year's event commencing from Wednesday, 13 March and Saturday, 16 March. The Elite 8 Series, which was first played in 2011, will feature the best-of-the-best Men's and Women's players from across the country.

The Elite 8 Series will see eight teams in both the Men's and Women's divisions vie for their respective national titles: four teams from New South Wales (Mets, Scorpions, Rebels and Country Mavericks); three from Queensland (Stingrays, Country Outlaws and Chiefs); and one from the rest of Australia (the Alliance).

The NTL, which will be held in parallel to the Elite 8 Series, returns to its original home, Coffs Harbour, which previously hosted the event from its inception in 1997 through to 2008.

Teams from every state in Australia as well as three international teams – Scotland, Papua New Guinea and Hong Kong – will compete in the NTL event. Approximately 2,000 participants will take part, with divisions ranging from T League (teams with the combination of 10 under 20's players and six over 20's) through to Men's 55's.

The NSW Government, through Destination NSW, is proud to partner with Touch Football Australia to secure major Touch Football events in New South Wales. This event is part of the NSW Government's support for Touch Football, leading up to the 2015 Touch Football World Cup to be held in New South Wales.

Items of interest:

- The Elite 8 will feature the majority of Australian representatives who competed at the recent 2013 Super Trans Tasman Series in Auckland, New Zealand. Of particular interest are the successful four Australian Youth teams (18's Boys and Girls, 20's Boys and Girls) who won their series' in a clean sweep over arch rivals New Zealand, with a lot of these players making their debuts in the Elite 8 divisions at the event.

For further information, or to arrange an interview or photograph, please feel free to contact Lauren Pritchard on the details below. Visit the TFA website – www.austouch.com.au to view the latest edition of Hard Wrap, TFA's national magazine which features views, news and previews of this year's Elite 8 Series and NTL events.

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