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Murri Carnival launches plans for overseas tours

By National Indigenous Times Editor
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The second State Murri Rugby League carnival was launched on Friday with the announcement of overseas tours for players selected to represent the Under 15 and Men's Open teams.

Tony Currie, Coordinator of the QAIHCC Arthur Beetson Foundation Murri Rugby League State Carnival, said he was excited at the prospect of the team selections to go on these historic tours to Papua New Guinea and the United States of America.

The Under 15 players will compete against the Under 15 Papua New Guinea Kumuls in early October as part of a four day tour.

The Open men's team will travel to either Hawaii or the west coast of America to play against the USA Tomahawks Rugby League team.

Mr Currie said a condition for selection in the Under 15 team was players must have achieved a 90 per cent attendance rate at school. This will be monitored by Education Queensland.

"We may not have the best team from Queensland going on tour but we'll have the best educated team from Queensland," he said.

Mr Currie was also excited about making the US tour a cultural exchange with the addition of taking along an Indigenous Dance Troupe.

"We are in the process of looking at a dance troupe to accompany the team in late October," he said.

Troy Byers, co-coordinator of the carnival, said he was delighted to have Ipswich Mayor, Paul Pisasale on side to host the carnival in his city.

At the launch on Friday Mr Pisasale said he was confident the city of Ipswich would put on the best Rugby League carnival of any city in the country.

"We'll show them how it's done and how true reconciliation can work," he said.

Christian Beetson, son of the late Arthur Beetson, said his father would be proud of the way this carnival would provide opportunities for Indigenous football talent to be promoted and he was confident the carnival would be well supported.

"Dad put a lot of his time and effort in to promoting Indigenous Rugby League and I'm glad his legacy is being carried on with this carnival," Mr Beetson said.

The Carnival will be held from September 27 to 30 at Briggs Road Complex in Ipswich.



Pictured left to right Christian Beetson, Steve Johnson, Troy Byers, Paul Pisasale, Tony Currie and Brad Beetson after the announcement by the Murri Carnival organisers of overseas tours for the under 15 and men's open teams. Image: Rhonda Hagan