



CANBERRA REGION  
RUGBY LEAGUE

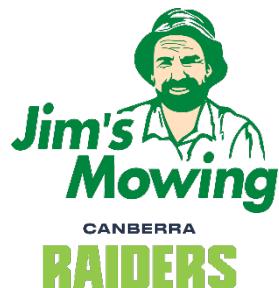
## 2025 ANNUAL REPORT



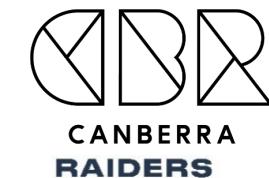


## CANBERRA REGION RUGBY LEAGUE

The Canberra Region Rugby League would like to thank all their partners for the 2025 season.



THE  
**MAWSON**  
CLUB



**BELCONNEN**



**Tradelink®**



**RAIDERS**  
**GUNGAHLIN**



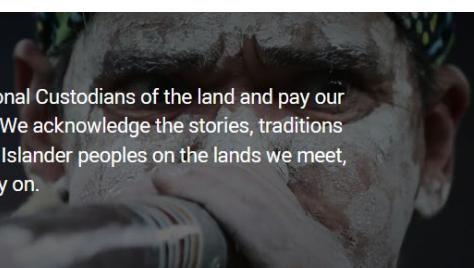
**QUEANBEYAN**  
LEAGUES CLUB



**RAIDERS**  
**WESTON**



Canberra Raiders respect and honour the Traditional Custodians of the land and pay our respects to their Elders past, present and future. We acknowledge the stories, traditions and living cultures of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples on the lands we meet, gather and play on.





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## CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

I am pleased to report that the interest in rugby league has never been greater than it is at present. Not only have the Raiders excited the rugby league community but the total participation in the region continues to break records. In 2025, the CRRL had over 7000 participants for the first time and more than 2000 females participated in our game for the first time.



Figure 1 Tackle Ready Gala Day

These are outstanding numbers and is a credit to all our clubs, their volunteers and supporters in providing a product that boys and girls, women and men all wish to participate in as well as consume at the highest level.

The Player Development Framework has been successful in introducing children to a game that concentrates on skills and participation, and the tackle ready program sets up players for a more enjoyable experience.

The success of the wheelchair program at performance level continued. The Canberra Region participated in the inaugural national carnival, and we were pleased to clinch the title undefeated with the team led by three of our original members and Rolling Raiders champions, Toby Popple as captain, Zac Carl and Chris O'Brien.

Again, we thank the continued support of Zatoma Transport and Player 2 in partnering the wheelchair program.

The CRRL is fortunate to have the continued support of Blumers Lawyers as the competition's major sponsor. Mark Blumer and Ian Burchell continue to support rugby league and have always had a great interest in the development of female rugby league. We thank them for their support.

The Raiders Group of clubs and the Canberra District Rugby League continue to support both junior and senior clubs, as well as the administration program undertaken by the CRRL. This support provides the CRRL with the funding to support one of the most professional group of administrators in the state and professionally run competitions. The support from the Raiders Group directly reduces cost for junior participants and clubs through covering fees for the referees and ground hire on Friday nights.



## CANBERRA REGION RUGBY LEAGUE

Our thanks go to the Boards and General Managers of Raiders Gungahlin, Raiders Belconnen, Raiders Weston, The Mawson Club and Queanbeyan Leagues Club for their continued support.

This season we also welcomed more partners to the rugby league family. Tradelink, Signworld, Code Security and Jim's Mowing have all partnered with the CRRL in multi-year deals that assist the CRRL in providing the administrative assistance necessary to the clubs in running a growing competition.

The NSWRL instituted a new Judiciary Offences Schedule this season and it was seemingly well received as being a simpler method of operation than the previous points system.

The senior reporting system continues to operate efficiently and overall, the CRRL is pleased with the on-field behaviour as players are cognisant of their responsibilities to their fellow players.

A few areas for improvement which disappointingly became more common during the season were homophobic comments, alleged racial vilification and ableist comments. These are unacceptable and will not be tolerated by either the referees or the CRRL.

The CRRL and the NSWRL had two historic incidents to deal with this season. In both cases the co-operation between the NSWRL, the CRRL and NRL Integrity worked constructively to get an appropriate outcome through the NRL Code of Conduct and NSWRL Code of Conduct. One issue was resolved in 2024 with a lifetime ban and a removal of Life membership, whilst the more current issue was an occurrence in 2024 that necessitated action when the person attempted to be re-registered in the sport, then a complaint was made by the victim which resulted in the blocking of the request.

The CRRL will always act in accordance with its processes and utilising the availability of both the NRL and NSWRL where necessary and its own independent judiciary and disciplinary system where required to uphold the integrity of the CRRL and protect its members.

The CRRL Judiciary continued to partner with the NSWRL, in hearing cases for Group 20, Group 16, Group 9 (as applicable), taking on the Sydney overflow when asked and Touch Football ACT, whilst continuing to contribute to the overall system's development. We extend our gratitude to Co-Chairs Chris Gribble, Bwalya Chifuntwe, and Sarah Rodrigues, Appeals Chair Jonathan Hanton, and the entire Judiciary panel, including Geoff Milczuk, Phil Stuart, Danny Roper, John Cooper, Papunya Connors, Rob Scott, and Bernard Powderly. A special thanks to



Figure 2 Mark Vergano OAM (Left) and Shane Tipa (Code Security) (Right)



Glyn Sargent, Head of the Match Review Committee, who was joined this season by Mark Ryan in assessing the weekend's incidents which were over 250 for the league.

NSWRL has continued its commitment to the Bruce facility (affectionately known as Shark Park) and is seeking to extend its lease and invest in the facility once the final decision has been made about a new stadium. Currently there is a grant application in with the ACT Government for a lights upgrade to which the NSWRL through their grant program has contributed, Belconnen Sharks and the CRRL will also contribute.

To NSWRL CEO Dave Trodden, CFO Dean Webster, Community Manager Peter Clarke, Facilities Manager Ben Jessimar, Regional Manager Dave Skinner, and Monaro representative Jake McDonald, thank you for your continued assistance, advice and partnering in projects with the CRRL.



Figure 3 Jim Mowings Referee Partnership

I have been fortunate to continue in my role as a director of the NSW Community Rugby League Board which is focused on increasing resources and participation at community level.

My thanks go to the Canberra Referees who continue to fulfil their obligations each week in an ever-expanding competition.

## Closing Remarks

The CRRL Committee has once again fulfilled its obligations to the members and the CDRL in an efficient and cohesive manner. The committee continues to grow the game in a stable but innovative way. We bid farewell to Phil Watts and Michelle Jopling from the committee for 2026. Thank you both for your service, Michelle as a Juniors representative and Phil as a Seniors representative. Phil especially has served on the committee since 2006-2007 making it an 18-year commitment to the CRRL and before that having been involved with the Valley Dragons, Tuggeranong Bushrangers and the Canberra Minor District Rugby league since 1991. An outstanding 34 years of service to Canberra rugby league.

The growth in the CRRL in participation, competitions, representative rugby league, facilities and media exposure cannot occur without a dedicated operations team who go above and beyond in their service to the members, clubs and the region. Thank you to the CRRL staff Mark, Deb, Stacey, Liam, Hayden,



## CANBERRA REGION RUGBY LEAGUE

Samantha and Jess for their continued outstanding efforts which are recognised publicly by the NSWRL and other organisations.

To Taylor, NRL Development Officer and all her assistants we thank you for promoting the game throughout our region, giving exposure of this great game to those who might not have yet committed to Rugby League.

Thank you to the CDRL Board for your continued support and to Don Furner, Jason Mathie and the Raiders staff for your ongoing support of community rugby league. It was gratifying to see the General Manager of the Newcastle Rugby League visit our General Manager and Don Furner recently looking at how the CRRL and Raiders work together in what is commonly accepted as a best practice model between the professional and community arms of rugby league.

It has been a privilege to once again serve the game we all love as Chairman of the CRRL, and I look forward to continued success in 2026.

I wish you and your families a very Merry Christmas and a safe and happy New Year.

Gary Green

Chairman

CRRL



## COMMITTEE REPORT

### COMMITTEE MEMBERS

#### Chairman

Gary Green

#### Executive Officer

Mark Vergano (non-voting)

#### Senior Club Representatives

Ian Gorman

Steven Troth

Phillip Watts

#### George Tooke Shield Representative

Tony Rayner

#### Junior Club Representatives

Michelle Jopling

Danny Roper

Greg Bell

#### Appointed Members

Chris Nightingale (Referees)

Jon Tucker (ACT Schools)

Yvette Croft (Women's RL)

**CRJRL COMMITTEE** - Attendance at nine Committee Meetings held in 2025.

NAME	ATTENDED	APOLOGIES
GARY GREEN	9	0
MICHELLE JOPLING	8	1
DANNY ROPER	8	1
CHRIS NIGHTINGALE	7	2
JON TUCKER	2	7
TONY RAYNER	9	0
GREG BELL	9	0
YVETTE CROFT	7	2
IAN GORMAN	9	0
PHIL WATTS	9	0
STEVE TROTH	7	2
MARK VERGANO	9	0

\*Note: Jon Tucker was granted a leave of absence for six months due to family medical issues



## GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

The 2025 season was another one of growth for the CRRL.

### The Snapshot:

- Overall participation grew from 6520 to 7108.
- This was an increase in participation of 9.02% – up from 6.13% in 2024.
- An increase in male participation of 5.93% - up from 4.4% in 2024.
- An increase in female participation of 17.6% - up from 13.75% in 2024.
- Retention rates increased from 74% in 2024 to 79% in 2025.
- Male retention rate went from 76% to 80%.
- Female retention rate went from 68% to 77%.
- Media engagement continued to grow – Facebook 17401 to 18936, Instagram 5196 to 7078, X (Twitter) 618 to 646.
- BAR TV grew from 227,713 to 391,259 views an increase 71% views.
- CRRL remained the 4<sup>th</sup> largest rugby league region in the NSWRL.
- The Canberra Region Rolling State team won the National Championships
- The George Tooke Shield representative teams won the Men's, League Tag and Under 18 matches against the Woodbridge Cup representative teams.
- Jon Tucker, Carrie Jackson and Jayden Grocott were recognised for their contributions to rugby league.

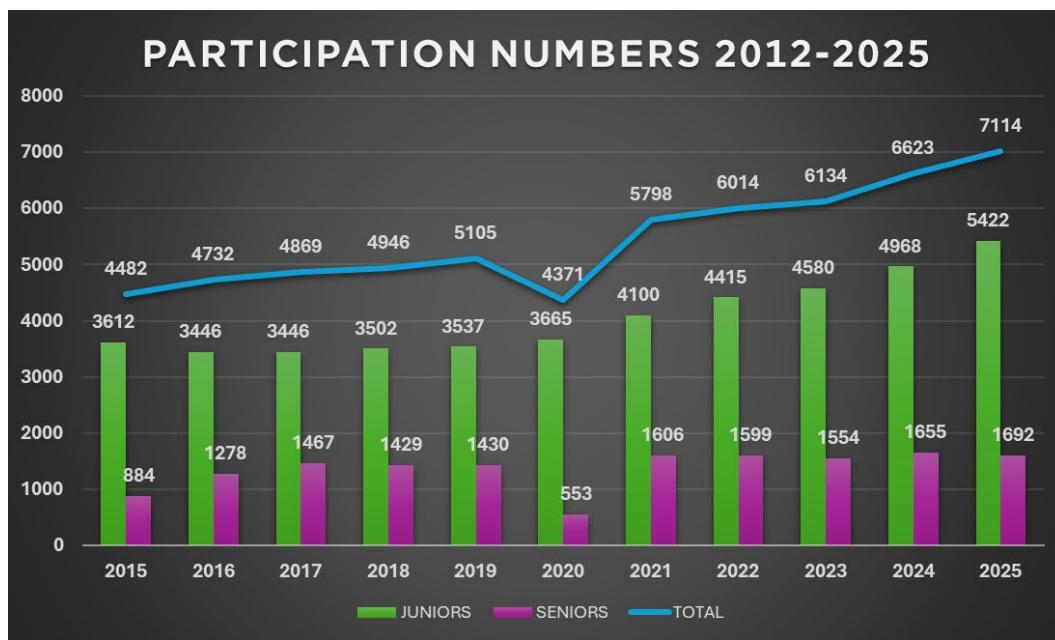


Figure 4 CRRL Participation Numbers 2015-2025



## Facilities

The ovals showed a marked improvement in the 2025 season as the ACT Sportsgrounds regimen reacted to the poor conditions that ovals were in during 2024. This was a gratifying improvement for players through all grades.

There was progress in several areas around facilities during the 2025 season.

The Phillip District Enclosed Oval redevelopment saw the new pavilion completed and opened as stage one of the works. The new facilities have been greatly appreciated by the Woden club and junior finals were able to return to the venue in 2025. In 2026 we look forward to having the total project completed with the ground re-alignment, new irrigation and drainage and lights installed.



Figure 5 Phillip Oval Pavillion

The ACT Government has commenced its consultation around the Taylor Development with a pavilion and two new synthetic fields to be added to the existing two grass ovals currently in use. The ability for the Gungahlin club to relocate there in its entirety is getting closer. Ideally, the last two grass fields will hopefully also be completed in the near future.

The ACT Government has reacted to the need for Melba to be extended, to be able to cope with the dramatic growth in the Belconnen Sharks juniors club participation numbers. A plan to bring back some of the Millennium drought closed grounds will be very much appreciated not only by the club but also the ground itself!

Seiffert Oval received two extra dressing rooms which now gives the facility the ability to host multiple games on game day and it allows for a coordinated approach in a five-game day.

The Kangaroos were confirmed with grants to build a new pavilion for the lower grounds at Freebody Oval which will enhance that facility.

The Stromlo facility has gone to the Development Application stage with the Government and will be a welcome addition to a growing area when completed.

The uncertainty around the Bruce facility due to the ACT Government's due diligence on where it is best to place a new stadium is problematic for both the Belconnen Sharks and the NSWRL. NSWRL in fact wishes to invest in the facility and announced a \$30,000 grant to the Sharks should the facility not be considered for a major stadium.



NSWRL have employed Daniel Ristic as the new Facilities Strategist, and we look forward to working with Daniel in delivering the complete facilities audit for the region which will assist in planning and grants into the future.

### Participation & Retention Statistics

The continued growth in participation across all ages, especially in the juniors, is a pleasing aspect of the statistics that we see illustrated in the accompanying graphs.

The Player Development Framework which incorporated the Tackle Ready program saw the 3-7 age group bounce from 880 to 1036 participants.

The 13 to 15 age grouping saw a rise from 1324 participants to 1541. This was significant especially as it is in a key age demographic. The Under 8-9 and Under 10-12 grouping were both up but by smaller margins. Whilst the growth of League Tag has been important in bringing more girls to the game, with the boys numbers also rising.



Figure 6 CRRL Player Retention Rates

The increase in the retention rates is a very pleasing aspect of the delivery of rugby league. As is commonly known it is far easier to retain children engaged in the game rather than always having to find new recruits. The increase in the retention rates is a credit to clubs who have worked hard on creating positive environments and good experiences for players which encourages their return. The fact that both the male and female retention rates are up significantly shows a consistency of approach that is having positive outcomes.

We need to consolidate the great work in the retention space and look to the next frontiers being the recruitment of more female coaches and referees.

The growth in the numbers has placed a strain on the refereeing ranks and as a sport we need to recruit more referees but through positive behaviour help retain our referees.



## Trainers and First Aid

Rugby league continues to lead sports at community level for the care and welfare of players through its accreditation system of sports trainers and first aid. This cohort is the secret sauce to the on-going longevity of the game in giving parents and players confidence that the game of rugby league will look after its own people. We all know that we play a contact sport but the system of accredited people on the sideline being a positive first responder is a sport that recognises the health and well-being of its players.

Concussion remains one of the biggest on-going challenges to our game but with the right protocols in place, supported by our trainers and the rugby league community, we can mitigate the harshest aspects of our game.

That said, the CRRL will continue to work with experts in better understanding concussion and ensuring best practice is maintained.

## Coach Developer

The single biggest change to the CRRL approach to rugby league in the region this year was the employment of the region's first Coach Developer. Liam Herbert was employed in the role to service all coaches throughout the region, with a focus on junior coaches.



Figure 7 Coach the Coaches Night  
Bungendore

The role is a joint initiative between the ACT Government Industry Partnership Program, the CDRL and CRRL. The idea behind the program was to assist and improve the level of coaching at junior level to make training and playing a better experience for players in the hope that with a positive experience, they would return to the sport the following season. This also applies to coaches who do a fantastic job in their volunteer role but

often feel they do not have the support or the resources to improve their coaching.

Allied to this, a coach can influence so many other areas such as team culture, parental behaviour and acting appropriately on the sidelines thereby modelling positive behaviour for all. Coaches that are well equipped also respect the referee and the positive interchange between referees and coaches can assist in keeping referees.

The first year has been one of rolling out the program but we see very positive results in the initial stages of this role.



## Competitions

The CRRL staff, the referees and its club volunteers have the herculean task of organising and delivering approximately 230 games each weekend across 39 venues from areas as wide as Harden in the northwest to Goulburn further east, down to Jindabyne in the south and the greater Canberra region.

Once again all have risen to the occasion by running one of the most professional leagues in the NSWRL and maintains its reputation as a can-do area.

Two significant areas of development in the juniors have been the last Under 12 Grand Final and the establishment of the Junior Bushrangers.

With the implementation of the Player Development Framework (PDF), the transition to a non-competition mode up to and including Under 12s is now complete. From 2026 Finals series will only be played from Under 13 upwards. Whilst there had been a large amount of debate that players would leave the game without a finals series, the statistics do not currently support this. In fact, rugby league has simply caught up to where many of the other sports have already moved.

The Junior Bushrangers is an initiative in bringing the three Tuggeranong based junior clubs (Tuggeranong Buffaloes, Valley Dragons, South Tuggeranong Knights) together from the international grades and with female teams to provide an integrated pathway to their senior Tuggeranong Bushrangers club. An MOU has been in place with the clubs, and this pilot has continued to progress. The pilot has especially supported the growth in female participation in the Valley as the numbers have built on many terrific school gala days held by NRL Development. Congratulations to Jason Hall on driving this initiative.

The other development in the junior space is the establishment of the rugby league hubs for the younger players. The Cooma hub was established to ensure the younger age groups (Under 6, 7, 8, 9 & league tag) did not have to travel as far and began re-introducing junior rugby league to places like Jindabyne. This method increased participation by over 100 across age groups.

Goulburn/Crookwell also have a well-established hub and the CRRL is looking to expand this program in other regional areas.

The Canberra Raiders Cup Grand Finals had the unique experience of being moved just a few weeks out to accommodate the Canberra Raiders vs Brisbane Broncos Semi Final being played at GIO on the Sunday of what would've been Raiders Cup Grand Final day.



Figure 8 Glenn Lazarus (Left) and Levi Woods (Right)



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Everything was accommodated and we thank the clubs here for their co-operation. In fact, the move to a Saturday Grand Final has seen the clubs vote for that to be maintained into 2026.

The bulk of the Raiders Cup clubs were able to field all five teams which showed the strength of both the male and female participation at senior level. However, there are challenges in pockets such as Queanbeyan where the Blues had to forfeit two Reserve Grade matches and folded their Katrina Fanning Shield (KFS) team mid-season. The Queanbeyan Kangaroos have also been light in Reserve Grade, did not field an Under 19s nor League tag team and despite their best efforts could not increase their KFS numbers above 11 and so ultimately folded the team.

These events drew media scrutiny, but the CRRL believes that there are some structural changes required with the clubs, which they are undertaking along with the necessity of a closer relationship with the juniors as applicable.

The George Tooke Shield took on a different look this season with Cootamundra returning to Group 9 having rebuilt, so the George Tooke Shield (GTS) competition has again assisted a club in reviving itself. This season we welcomed a completely new club in Googong, who were able to field a men's tackle and League Tag team plus the legendary Snowy River Bears, switching from Group 16. Both were welcome additions to the competition.

This season there was virtually a GTS Match of the Round covered on BAR TV with participating clubs receiving three matches in general whether home or away. This initiative increased the exposure of the competition markedly where the Round 1 Crookwell v Bungendore League tag match was our third highest viewed game of the season including Raiders Cup coverage.

The growth in BAR TV viewership has been impressive. Apart from the growth in total views from 227,713 in 2024 to 391,259 in 2025 we saw total users grow from 23,046 to 29,100 and sessions also increased from 82,075 to 117,105. Impressive engagement from our supporters watching community rugby league.

The highlight this year for the Wheelchair Rugby League was the win at the National Championships for the Canberra Region team. Headed by our long serving players Toby Popple, Zac Carl and Chris O'Brien, the team picked up extra players and then powered to an unbeaten run in the carnival accounting for NSW in the final.

The Rolling Raiders had been unable to defend their title in the NSW Wheelchair Cup but finished a creditable 3<sup>rd</sup>.

An addition to the calendar this year was the June Long Weekend League Tag carnival which acted as a prelude to the state championships in September. This competition, held at Nicholls this year in tough weather conditions, featured Open and Under 16 teams from Canberra, Group 16, Group 9 and Group 20. We



envise this carnival growing to 2 days in coming years and expanding into a major event.

At the state carnival held in September at St Mary's both the Open and Under 16 qualified for the Semi Finals, with the Open team making the Grand Final. Despite both teams not claiming victory the strength of league tag in Canberra is being maintained on an upward trajectory. Our thanks to coaches Darren Grocott and Taylor Giggins and their respective teams for your input in developing the League Tag strategy.

The magic round concept for the 14- and 15-year-old boys was maintained as part of the youth pathways identification, and this was added to with the introduction of the Under 15 girls magic round.

There was more exposure this year for players as several Friday night junior matches in the Under 16 and Under 17 tackle and tag competitions were covered by BAR TV giving people a chance to see junior rugby league from the comfort of their homes.

One major change for 2026 will see the NSWRL using Howdens as their insurance broker switching from long term partner Gallaghers. We are yet to see what effect this will have on premiums, if any.

## Referees

The growth of the CRRL in participation in recent seasons has placed ever greater pressure on our referees and the Referees' Association in relation to recruitment and retention. The increase from about 170 to 230 games a weekend places enormous pressure on appointments where we continue to have match officials doing matches on Friday, Saturday and Sunday. This is somewhat unsustainable without assistance going into the future.

Apart from a general call for more people to "take up the whistle" we also need our supporters on the sideline to be fully aware of their role in encouraging young referees and the impact of negative comments on them staying in the game.

The CRRL wishes to commend the work of the Referees Executive with Oliver Levido in the Chair and especially its coaching team led by Matt Hall who have taken the assessment and feedback to another level.



Figure 9 Women In League Round @ GIO



## Honours

The CRRL wishes to acknowledge three award recipients this season.

Long serving ACT Schools representative and CRRL committeeman, Jon Tucker on being awarded the NRL Teacher of the Year.

Pioneering female coach Carrie Jackson on being recognised as the NSWRL Female Community Coach of the Year.

Gungahlin stalwart, Jayden Grocott on being the NSWRL Male Community Coach of the year.

Fantastic recognition for these dedicated volunteers and their commitment to rugby league.

You can read in more detail their exploits in the News section of this report.

## Closing Remarks

The CRRL once again would like to thank our media partners for their continued coverage and support of our sport. To WIN TV, Channel 9, The Canberra Times, Queanbeyan Age, Riot ACT, ABC Radio and television, 2CC and the regional news media for their continued support in promoting community sport.



Figure 10 Sam Williams

Sam Williams was a strong supporter of the Canberra Raiders Cup on his ABC Grandstand show. Sam has accepted a contract to coach the Northern Pride based in Cairns and we wish Sam and Sarah all the best on the next chapter of their journey together with their two boys.

A Raiders cup derby/reunion match between Sam's Northern Pride and Terry Campese's Townsville Blackhawks will have a bit of extra interest for us here in nation's capital.

The Raiders Group of clubs and Canberra District Rugby League continue to be strong supporters of rugby league which makes our sport very cost effective for the participants and ensures the viability of the community clubs and the CRRL itself. Without this investment, the CRRL could not maintain the standards it does in competition delivery and excellence in its strategic planning.

My thanks go to all the licensed clubs' general managers and the support of the CDRL Board, whose contribution to our game ensures we have a well-run and efficiently administered competition.

To the CRRL staff, thank you once again for your outstanding contribution to facilitating our clubs and administering the league.



Deb Charman and Stacey Studholme continue to excel in delivering their competitions to a high standard and have developed effective relationships with every club. Clubs have great confidence when they need to approach Deb and Stacey that they will be heard and their concerns acted upon.

We farewelled Anthony McQueen from the organisation and thank him for his work in the Accreditation and Inclusion areas. Anthony was especially effective in the Wheelchair rugby league space guiding the Rolling Raiders to their initial NSW Cup victory. We welcomed Samantha Brown to the CRRL, coming over from Capital Athletics and Sam has fitted in seamlessly taking on those responsibilities for accreditation and inclusion.



Figure 11 2024 Rolling Raiders Premiers

Liam Wyllie also left us mid-season as he headed to Europe to travel extensively, and we thank Liam for his contribution in working with the Raiders media team to consolidate much of the work our previous media managers have established. Into the fold came Hayden Blackmore, who was very familiar with the CRRL set up, as he was an intern from the University of Canberra who had already been reporting on CRRL matches and commentating. Hayden has continued in these areas as well as looking to broaden the remit of the CRRL media department.

As mentioned earlier in this report the provision of the Coach Developer role, with Liam Herbert driving the program is seen as innovative and necessary. We cannot praise Liam's enthusiasm, energy, expertise and organisation enough in getting this program firmly established.

James "Sully" Sullivan continued to be the voice of local rugby league. Apart from his iconic commentary style, Sully continued hosting the podcast with both Liam and Hayden and there are few with a deeper knowledge of the local league than Sully.



Figure 12 Tackle Ready Gala Day

Jake McDonald, the Group 16 NSWRL co-ordinator has become another "member" of our team, being part of the group when he works from Braddon but his valuable advice in navigating situations has been greatly appreciated by the CRRL team.

Taylor Giggins continues to power in her NRL Development Officer role especially when Shane Read left in June. Taylor has been a one-person dynamo and the CRRL team



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have been more than happy to assist Taylor at her well-organised gala days to ensure smooth and professional delivery of events that can help boost participation numbers for clubs.

Jess Crisp, as Community Manager, ties the NRL and CRRL community aspects of the business together, the organisation of game day events at GIO and assisting the CRRL staff and clubs in delivering mini footy, the club relay race, the mascots involvement and liaising as required makes her an invaluable part of the team. Jess also completed the Reconciliation Action Plan across the business and developed the club's statement of principles regarding our indigenous commitment.

The success of the Raiders NRL team, the establishment of the NRLW Raiders and the drive from the CRRL clubs and staff sees rugby league in a healthy place at present. However, we will be exploring gaps in the market to see if we can have more people involved actively playing the game. We will look to better service players, referees, coaches and volunteers to ensure that rugby league is providing a sport that all can be involved in.

The CRRL takes its responsibility to servicing our local community but also the wider regional community to maintain its reputation as an organisation that is inclusive, progressive, innovative and challenges the status quo.

Mark Vergano OAM

General Manager



## JUNIOR COMPETITION STATISTICS

Total number of clubs: 16

Total Number of teams: 394

Total Number of players: 5498

Competitions	2021 Teams	2021 Players	2022 Teams	2022 Players	2023 Teams	2023 Players	2024 Teams	2024 Players	2025 Teams	2025 Players
Midgets	-	76	-	92		272	17	298		344
Mini (U6-U9) *	141	1615	146	1624	143	1459	142	1421	159	1621
Mod (U10-U12) **	79	1141	83	1282	92	1264	97	1444	109	1527
International U13-U17) **	73	1360	76	1469	94	1615	123	1796	126	2006
Totals	293*	4192	305	4469	329*	4610	379	4959	394	5498

\* Numbers include Goulburn Mini & Monaro Mini Competition, which are administered by The Canberra Region Rugby League, and run by the Goulburn Junior MRLFC. and Cooma Colts respectively. Please note that this does not include Midgets but does include 5-Year-olds)

\*\* Numbers include U11, U13,

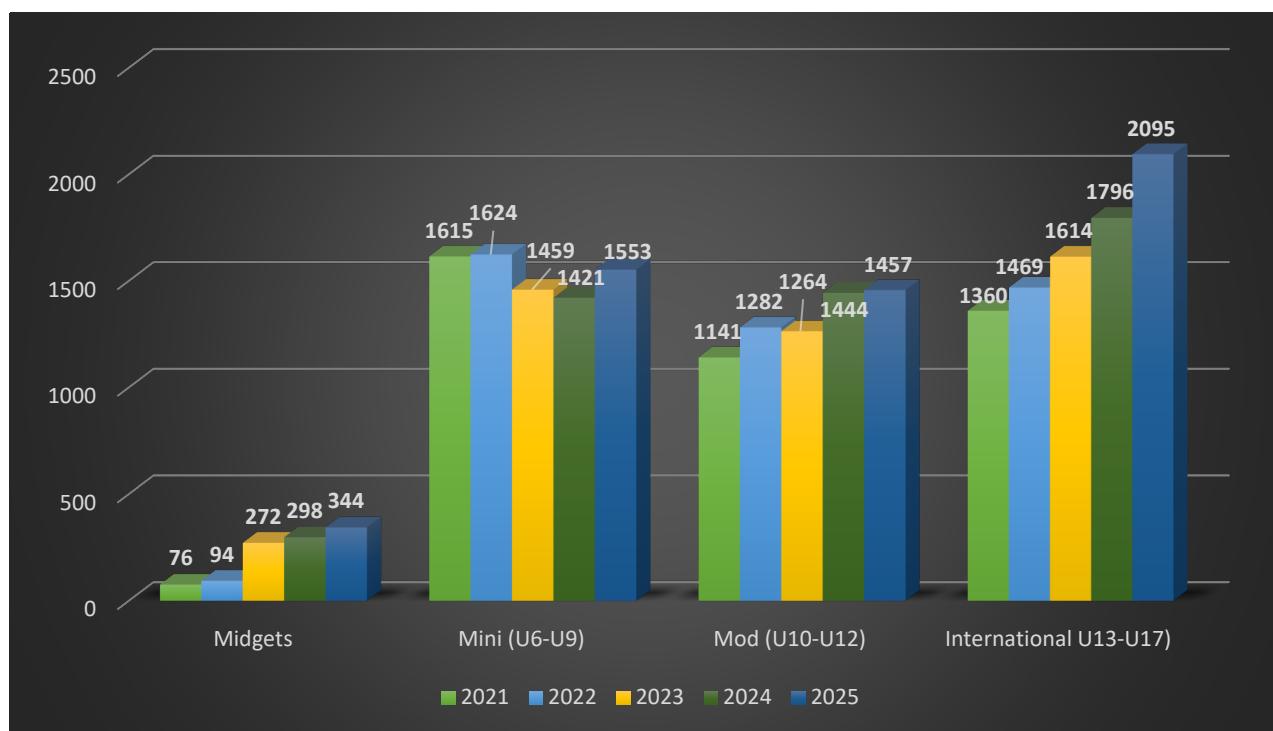


Figure 13 CRRL Junior Participation Numbers



## CANBERRA REGION RUGBY LEAGUE

Competition Breakdown by Age Group	2021 Teams	2021 Players	2022 Teams	2022 Players	2023 Teams	2023 Players	2024 Teams	2024 Players	2025 Teams	2025 Players
Midgets		76	-	92		83		92		131
Under 5		188	-	170		189		206		213
Under 6	36	266	37	295	33	266	35	272	43	331
Under 7	38	379	37	336	35	343	35	310	40	381
Under 8	33	369	38	419	37	373	35	404	34	382
Under 8 Leaguetag									2	36
Under 9	34	413	34	398	37	477	34	415	40	481
Under 10	27	402	28	432	20	368	31	423	27	383
Under 10 Leaguetag	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	5	41	8	88	12	66
Under 11	23	350	24	418	25	432	22	429	29	424
Under 11 Leaguetag									5	110
Under 12	19	389	20	358	20	369	20	327	24	393
Under 12 Leaguetag	10	125	11	137	10	54	15	177	12	157
Under 13	15	319	12	294	23	436	21	466	26	423
Under 14	17	381	11	284	12	287	17	336	18	413
Under 14 Leaguetag	5	80	11	171	9	85	10	137	14	127
Under 15	9	271	14	331	16	291	19	384	30	426
Under 16	9	232	7	225	11	298	9	152	12	339
Under 16 Leaguetag	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	5	19	6	108	11	57
Under 17	7	118	6	172	15	199	12	213	13	205
Score Raiders								20	2	20

### Male Participation in Competitions

Competition Breakdown by Age Group	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Midgets	62	80	81	80	112
Under 5	173	145	184	188	183
Under 6	257	272	264	252	289
Under 7	356	313	287	282	326
Under 8	358	388	318	360	320
Under 9	370	369	396	364	401
Under 10	382	359	328	414	353
Under 11	334	360	317	330	398
Under 12	340	328	313	354	336
Under 13	290	252	307	325	339
Under 14	312	227	219	305	322
Under 15	203	250	181	220	292
Under 16	183	178	196	176	217
Under 17	131	156	117	153	131
18+				26	17
Total	3751	3677	3508	3829	4036

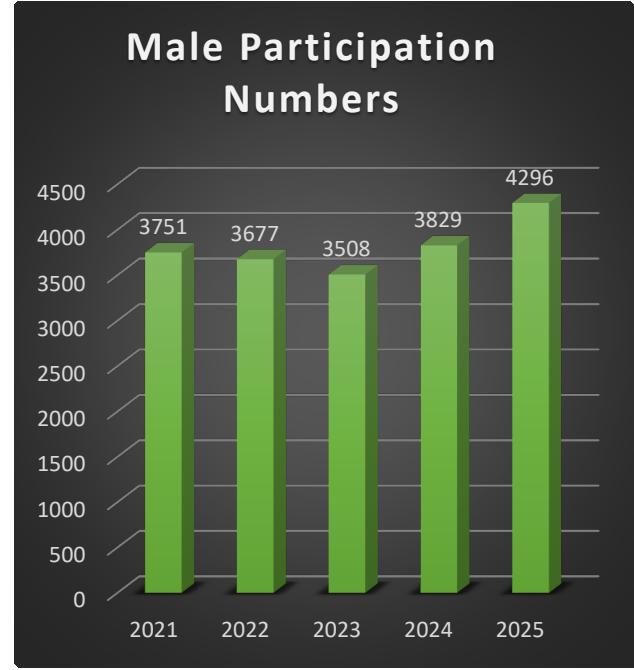


Figure 14 Male Junior Participation



2025 Male participation breakdown by club – all green highlights had an increase of last year.

Club	2024	2025
Belconnen United Sharks Juniors	351	363
Bungendore Junior RLFC Inc	116	140
Cooma District Junior Rugby League Inc	162	200
Crookwell Junior Green Devils RLFC	116	110
Goulburn Junior MRLFC	335	384
Gungahlin Bulls Juniors	329	358
North Canberra Junior Bears	277	302
Queanbeyan Kangaroos Juniors RLFC	230	191
Queanbeyan United Juniors RLFC Inc	360	375
South Coast United		
South Tuggeranong Minor RLFC Inc	216	185
Tuggeranong Buffaloes Junior RLFC	160	219
Valley Dragons Junior RLFC	263	260
West Belconnen Junior RLFC	328	301
Woden Valley Rams Juniors	384	411
Yass Minor Rugby League	235	235

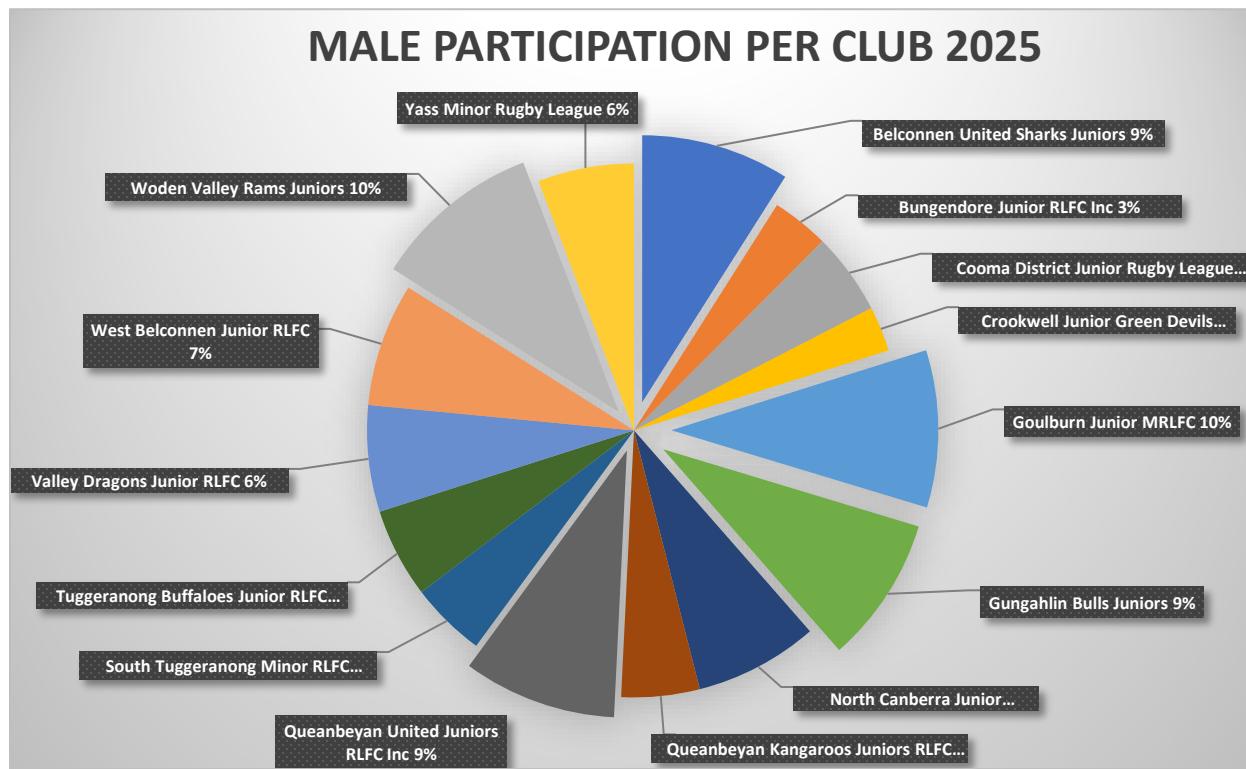


Figure 15 Male Junior Participation by club



Female Participation in both Tackle and League Tag

Competition Breakdown by Age Group	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Midgets	17	12	7	12	19
Under 5	21	25	16	18	30
Under 6	12	23	29	20	42
Under 7	25	23	28	28	35
Under 8	18	31	33	44	60
Under 9	53	30	56	51	80
Under 10	50	73	57	97	95
Under 11	66	72	87	99	132
Under 12	60	92	92	150	148
Under 13	42	121	111	141	202
Under 14	85	110	136	168	189
Under 15	74	124	104	164	197
Under 16	66	82	91	84	146
Under 17	42	51	74	52	84
18 +			6	2	3
Total	631	869	927	1130	1462

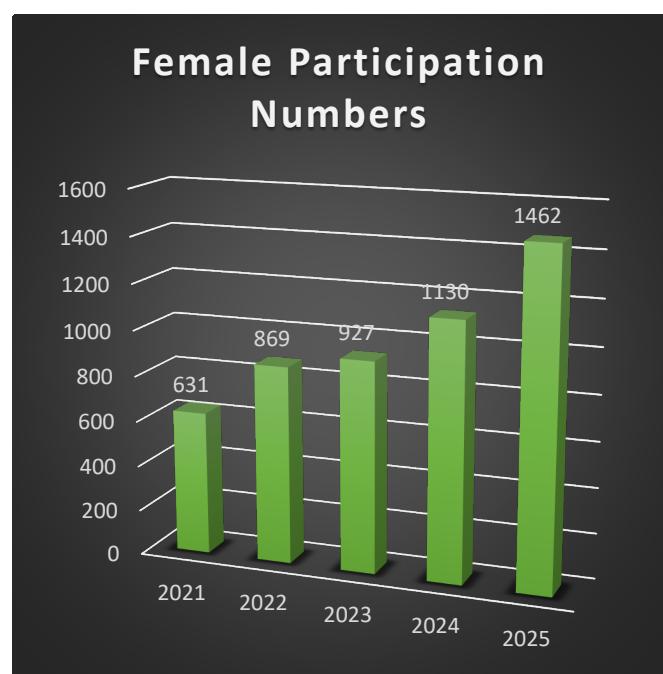


Figure 16 Female Junior Participation Numbers

2025 Female participation breakdown by club – all green highlights had an increase of last year.

Club	2024	2025
Belconnen United Sharks Juniors	169	210
Bungendore Junior RLFC Inc	30	37
Cooma District Junior Rugby League Inc	66	111
Crookwell Junior Green Devils RLFC	33	33
Goulburn Junior MRLFC	113	137
Gungahlin Bulls Juniors	40	81
North Canberra Junior Bears	51	98
Queanbeyan Kangaroos Juniors RLFC	106	93
Queanbeyan United Juniors RLFC Inc	51	76
South Coast United	39	51
South Tuggeranong Minor RLFC Inc	16	12
Tuggeranong Buffaloes Junior RLFC	74	78
Valley Dragons Junior RLFC	63	55
West Belconnen Junior RLFC	129	160
Woden Valley Rams Juniors	81	114
Yass Minor Rugby League	89	93

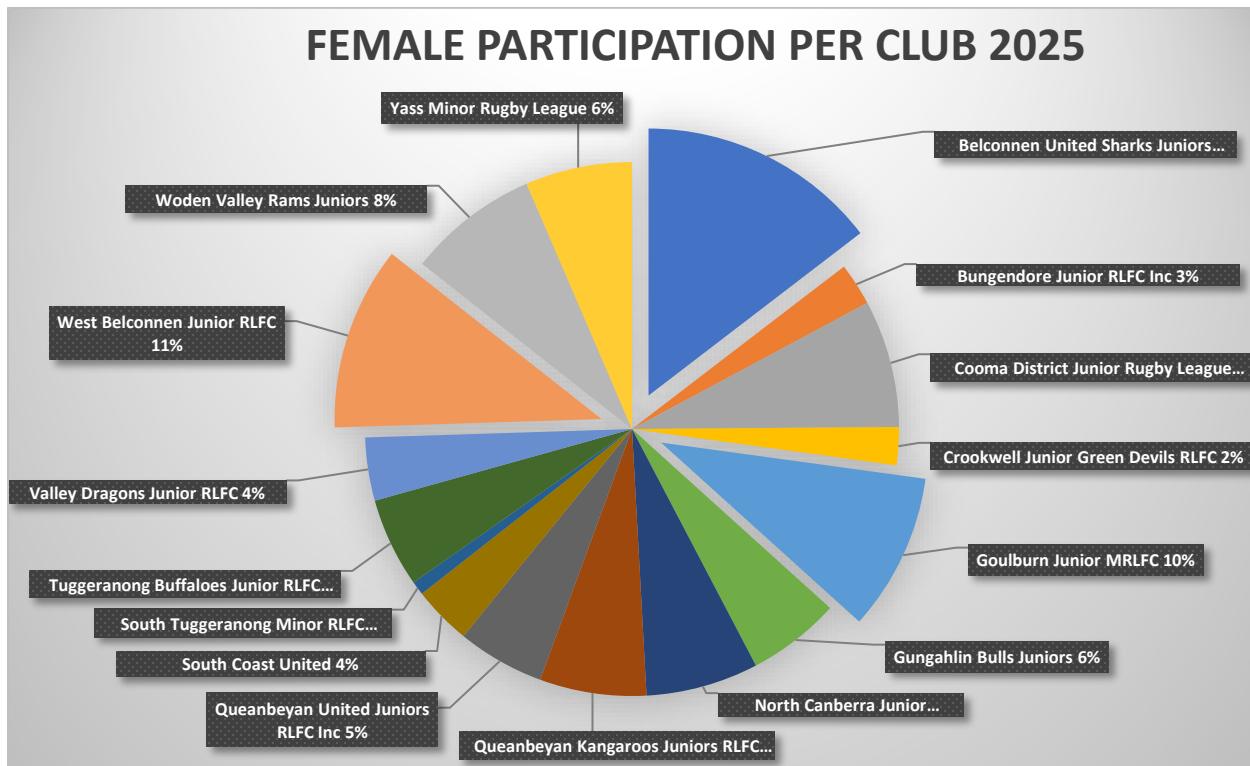


Figure 17 Female Junior Participation by Club



## 2025 JUNIOR PREMIERS

COMPETITION	WINNING TEAM/S
U12 Div 1	Queanbeyan Blues
U12 Div 2	Crookwell Green Devils
U12 Div 3	Queanbeyan Blues
U12 League Tag Div 1	North Canberra Bears
U12 League Tag Div 2	Queanbeyan Kangaroos
U13 Div 1	Queanbeyan Blues
U13 Div 2	Tuggeranong Buffaloes
U13 Female	South Coast Marlins
U14 Div 1	Gungahlin Bulls
U14 Div 2	Yass Magpies
U14 League Tag Div 1	Yass Magpies
U14 League Tag Div 2	Woden Valley Rams
U15 Div 1	Woden Valley Rams
U15 Div 1 Female	South Coast Marlins
U15 Div 2	Tuggeranong Bushrangers
U15 Div 2 Female	Tuggeranong Bushrangers
U16 Div 1	Queanbeyan Blues
U16 Div 2	Yass Magpies
U16 League Tag Div 1	Queanbeyan Kangaroos
U16 League Tag Div 2	Yass Magpies
U17 Div 1	Queanbeyan Blues
U17 Female	South Coast Marlins

Congratulations to all the clubs who were able to top off what was a successful season across all juniors' competitions.



## MCINTYRE MEDAL AWARDS 2025



Darby Medlyn of the Tuggeranong Bushrangers was awarded the 2025 Les McIntyre Medal, recognised as the Best and Fairest player of the Canberra Raiders Cup First-Grade competition.

The Bushrangers leader narrowly edged out finalists Dylan McLachlan (Queanbeyan Blues), Ryan McQueen (West Belconnen Warriors) and Mitch Cornish (Goulburn City Bulldogs), securing the award by four votes.

Figure 18 Darby Medlyn

After missing the 2024 season with an ACL injury, Medlyn returned to the field this year and was instrumental for the Bushrangers outfit.

Under his leadership, the Bushrangers went on a ten-game win streak, where Medlyn polled votes in seven of those games, including five man of the matches.

Alongside, his playing ability, Medlyn was recognised off the field for his coaching efforts alongside Brenden Bradley as the two were recognised as the Don Furner Snr Coaches of the Year.

Lara Cosgrove of the Woden Valley Rams was awarded the 2025 Maree Bush Medal as the Best and Fairest player of the Katrina Fanning Shield.

After finishing second in last year's count, the talented fullback swept the KFS awards, claiming the competition top try scorer and top points scorer on the night as well.

Cosgrove polled 24 votes, finishing well clear of fellow contenders Indi Dyball and Gabbie Davis.



Figure 19 Lara Cosgrove



Figure 20 Jack Mann

Jack Mann of the Belconnen United Sharks was the recipient of the Leedon Shield, recognising his consistency for the Sharks in what was a difficult season in the Reserve Grade competition for the club.

Tuggeranong Bushrangers halfback Lachlan Buckley earned the David Sharpe Medal for Best and Fairest in the Under 19's competition, as he guided his team to a top two finish.



## CANBERRA REGION RUGBY LEAGUE

Gungahlin Bull Georgia Smith was awarded the Sarah Carter Medal, in an historic season for the club which saw them claim their first premiership in the competition.

Kaylee Charlton of the North Canberra Bears earned the Emma James Medal for the Best and Fairest player in the George Tooke Shield League Tag competition.

The George Tooke Shield saw Boorowa Rovers Captain Coach Cooper Cross claim the award in a hotly contested vote.

Jason McManus was awarded the Noel Bissett Trophy for Outstanding Referee honours.

Tomasi Bikaca (Woden) earned the Hewson/Stonham Shield for the Monaro Colts Best and Fairest. The Women's Monaro Colts Best and Fairest was awarded to Madyson Tooth (Goulburn/Raiders).



Figure 22 Jed Stuart (Left) and Madi Elphick (Right)

The George Tooke Shield Representative Player of the Year awards went to Cooper Cross (Boorowa) in the Open Men's, Clare Smith (Harden) in the League Tag and Lachlan Buckley (Tuggeranong) in the Under 18s.

Canberra Raider Jed Stuart (Woden) was awarded the 2025 Don Elphick medal after making his debut in Round 16 against the West Tigers.

The introduction of the Ahlivia Ingram medal, saw Ahlivia Ingram (Tuggeranong), Alannah Dummett (Yass), Elise Smith (Yass), Ella Ryan (Woden), Georgia Willey (Woden) and Ua Ravu (Harden) all recognised for debuts in the NRLW competition after playing for local clubs.



Figure 21 Kaylee Charlton



Figure 23 (Left to Right)  
Alannah Dummett, Ua Ravu,  
Georgia Willey and Elise  
Smith



## BEST & FAIREST STANDINGS

### CRC FIRST GRADE

Darby Medlyn (Tuggeranong Bushrangers) - 19 points

Dylan McLachlan (Queanbeyan Blues) - 15 points

Ryan McQueen (West Belconnen Warriors) - 12 points

Mitch Cornish (Goulburn City Bulldogs) - 11 Points

### KATRINA FANNING SHIELD

Lara Cosgrove (Woden Valley Rams) - 24 points

Indi Dyball (Woden Valley Rams) - 12 points

Gabbie Davis (Yass Magpies) - 10 points

### CRC RESERVE GRADE

Jack Mann (Belconnen United Sharks) - 17 points

Chris Thorley (West Belconnen Warriors) - 11 points

Jade Schumacher (Gungahlin Bulls) - 11 points

Dave Barrie (Yass Magpies) - 11 points

Luke Ashlin (West Belconnen Warriors) - 11 points

Absalom Akaru Markus Bayam (Woden Valley Rams) - 11 points

### CRC LEAGUE TAG

Georgia Smith (Gungahlin Bulls) - 21 points

Keesha Kapea (Woden Valley Rams) - 17 points

Dee Goudge (Tuggeranong Bushrangers) - 16 points

Ellie Coggan (Goulburn City Bulldogs) - 15 points

### CRC UNDER 19'S

Lachlan Buckley (Tuggeranong Bushrangers) - 25 points

Toby Bodycott (Gungahlin Bulls) - 15 points

Tom Handsaker (Goulburn City Bulldogs) - 15 points

### GTS OPEN MEN'S

Cooper Cross (Boorowa Rovers) - 22 points

Jayden Eddy (Crookwell Green Devils) - 20 points

Brad Laurent (Bungendore Tigers) - 17 points

### GTS LEAGUE TAG

Kaylee Charlton (North Canberra Bears) - 23 points

Georgia Smith (Harden Hawks) - 19 points

Taylor Giggins (UC Stars) - 14 points

Jayde Della (Crookwell Green Devils) - 12 points



## FULL LIST OF AWARD WINNERS

\*The following awards are based off regular season statistics.

### BLUMERS LAWYERS CANBERRA RAIDERS CUP FIRST GRADE

<b>LES MCINTYRE MEDAL (BEST &amp; FAIREST)</b>	Darby Medlyn 19 points	TUGGERANONG BUSHRANGERS
<b>DON FURNER SNR SHIELD (COACH OF THE YEAR)</b>	Darby Medlyn & Brenden Bradley	TUGGERANONG BUSHRANGERS
<b>TOP POINT SCORER</b>	Lucas Thomson 216 points	QUEANBEYAN KANGAROOS
<b>TOP TRY SCORER</b>	Lachie Davis 20 tries	TUGGERANONG BUSHRANGERS

### BLUMERS LAWYERS KATRINA FANNING SHIELD

<b>MAREE BUSH MEDAL (BEST &amp; FAIREST)</b>	Lara Cosgrove 24 points	WODEN VALLEY RAMS
<b>GRAHAM WILLARD SHIELD (COACH OF THE YEAR)</b>	Teliya Hetaraka	TUGGERANONG BUSHRANGERS
<b>TOP POINT SCORER</b>	Lara Cosgrove 150 points	WODEN VALLEY RAMS
<b>TOP TRY SCORER</b>	Lara Cosgrove 22 tries	WODEN VALLEY RAMS

### BLUMERS LAWYERS CANBERRA RAIDERS CUP RESERVE GRADE

<b>LEEDON SHIELD (BEST &amp; FAIREST)</b>	Jack Mann 17 points	BELCONNEN UNITED SHARKS
<b>COACH OF THE YEAR</b>	Shaun Davis and Charlie Shepherd	YASS MAGPIES
<b>TOP POINT SCORERS</b>	Travis Vawdon 114 points	GUNGAHIN BULLS
<b>TOP TRY SCORER</b>	Absalom Akaru Markus Bayam 21 tries	WODEN VALLEY RAMS



## CANBERRA REGION RUGBY LEAGUE

### BLUMERS LAWYERS UNDER 19'S

<b>DAVID SHARPE MEDAL (BEST &amp; FAIREST)</b>	Lachlan Buckley 25 points	TUGGERANONG BUSHRANGERS
<b>COACH OF THE YEAR</b>	Scott Ferris	GOULBURN CITY BULLDOGS
<b>TOP POINT SCORER</b>	Levi Woods 156 points	GOULBURN CITY BULLDOGS
<b>TOP TRY SCORER</b>	Rok Van Dalen 14 tries	BELCONNEN UNITED SHARKS

### BLUMERS LAWYERS CANBERRA RAIDERS CUP LADIES LEAGUE TAG

<b>SARAH CARTER MEDAL (BEST &amp; FAIREST)</b>	Georgia Smith 21 points	GUNGAHLIN BULLS
<b>COACH OF THE YEAR</b>	Phil Davison	TUGGERANONG BUSHRANGERS
<b>TOP POINT SCORER</b>	Mackenzie Alcock 100 points	WODEN VALLEY RAMS
<b>TOP TRY SCORER</b>	Mia Keen 18 tries	WODEN VALLEY RAMS

### BLUMERS LAWYERS GEORGE TOOKE SHIELD OPEN MEN'S

<b>GAVIN MILLER MEDAL (BEST &amp; FAIREST)</b>	Cooper Cross 22 points	BOOROWA ROVERS
<b>COACH OF THE YEAR</b>	Shane McCallum	CROOKWELL GREEN DEVILS
<b>TOP POINT SCORER</b>	Cooper Cross 162 points	BOOROWA ROVERS
<b>TOP TRY SCORER</b>	Austin Power 25 tries	BOOROWA ROVERS

### BLUMERS LAWYERS GEORGE TOOKE SHIELD LADIES LEAGUE TAG

<b>EMMA JAMES MEDAL (BEST &amp; FAIREST)</b>	Kaylee Charlton 23 points	NORTH CANBERRA BEARS
<b>COACH OF THE YEAR</b>	Jacob Noone	GOOGONG GOANNAS
<b>TOP POINT SCORER</b>	Georgia Smith 33 tries	HARDEN HAWKS
<b>TOP TRY SCORER</b>	Georgia Smith 132 points	HARDEN HAWKS



## SPECIAL AWARDS

<b>NOEL BISSETT TROPHY</b>	Jason McManus	
<b>HEWSON/STONHAM MEDAL</b>	Tomasi Bikaca	WODEN VALLEY RAMS
<b>MONARO WOMEN'S BEST &amp; FAIREST</b>	Madysen Tooth	GOULBURN CITY BULLDOGS/CANBERRA RAIDERS
<b>GTS REP PLAYER OF THE YEAR</b>	Cooper Cross	BOOROWA ROVERS
<b>GTS LEAGUE TAG REP PLAYER OF THE YEAR</b>	Clare Smith	HARDEN HAWKS
<b>GTS UNDER 18s REP PLAYER OF THE YEAR</b>	Lachlan Buckley	TUGGERANONG BUSHRANGERS
<b>CRRL LEAGUE TAG REP TEAM STATE CHAMPIONS - 2024</b>	Mackenzie Alcock, Ruby Carey, Annie Croker, Rachel Grocott, Lahni Hall, Maddison Harney, Karina Hewlett, Ellie Hyland, Maddie Hyland, Emma James, Annie Kent, Matisse McNair, Alice Ruwald, Clare Smith, Georgia Smith, Alicia Trevethan, Emily Warner	



## NAMING OF AWARDS

**Les McIntyre Medal** – The Canberra Raiders Cup First Grade Best and Fairest Award is named after Les McIntyre OAM who was the founding father of the Canberra Raiders. McIntyre was awarded life membership at the Canberra Raiders, Country Rugby League, and New South Wales Rugby League.

**Don Furner Snr Shield** – The Canberra Raiders Cup First Grade Coach of the Year award is named after former Australian representative Don Furner Senior. During his playing years, Furner also represented Queensland before enjoying a successful coaching career. Furner coached Australia, the Queanbeyan Blues, and was also the inaugural coach of the Canberra Raiders.

**Leedon Shield** – The Canberra Raiders Cup Reserve Grade Best and Fairest award is named after Lee Donnelly who helped pave the way for the Raiders' entry to the NSWRL competition in 1982. He was heavily involved with the Woden Valley Rams and was also awarded life membership of the old Group 19 competition.

**David Sharpe Award** – The Canberra Raiders Cup Under 19's Best and Fairest Award is named after David Sharpe. Sharpe was involved in rugby league in the Canberra Region as a player for the Queanbeyan Blues before helping establish senior rugby league in Tuggeranong with the Valley Dragons and Tuggeranong Bushrangers. Sharpe coached both sides. He was well known for his role as football manager with the Canberra Raiders where he implemented education, development, and welfare programs for the NRL.



**Gavin Miller Shield** – The George Tooke Shield Open Men’s Best and Fairest Award is named after two-time Dally M Medalist Gavin Miller. Miller played for a number of clubs but is best remembered for his stint at Cronulla where he was named as a club immortal. Miller also played for Goulburn during the late 1970’s and early 1990’s.

**Sarah Carter Medal** – The Canberra Raiders Cup League Tag Best and Fairest Award is named after one of the original players of the competition, Sarah Carter. Carter joined the competition at its inception in 2016, initially representing the Belconnen United Sharks. She went on to play for the West Belconnen Warriors from 2018-2022 where she was named Player of the Year in both 2019 and 2022 and is a three-time leading point scorer.

**Emma James Medal** – The George Tooke Shield League Tag Best and Fairest Award is named after Emma James. James is a long-standing Harden Hawklettes team member and has been instrumental in their success, earning five Best and Fairest awards and winning six premierships.

**Hewson/Stonham Shield** – The Representative Player of the Year Award is named after Steve Hewson and Phil Stonham. Steve Hewson, who was awarded an Order of Australia in 2023, represented Monaro, NSW Country, NSW, and was named Country Player of the Year in 1975. He is now involved in developing the overall strategy for NSW Wheelchair Rugby League, and in previous years has coached the Wheelaroos and NSW Wheelchair State of Origin teams. Phil Stonham enjoyed a long representative career with Monaro and was named Canberra Region as well as Country Player of the Year in 2004. Stonham played for the Queanbeyan Blues throughout most of his playing career.



**Noel Bissett Trophy** – The Outstanding Referee Award is named after former NSWRL referee and former CRRL Chairman, Noel Bissett. Bissett, who was awarded an Order of Australia in 2013, officiated in 275 Group 8 matches including 11 Grand Finals. Bissett is a life member of the Canberra Raiders and was also the president of the Canberra/Monaro Men of League charity.

**Don Elphick Medal** – The award for a Rookie from the Canberra Region and the Canberra Raiders that debuted in the NRL side is named after Don Elphick. Elphick played an instrumental role in the formation of the Canberra Raiders and is a life member of the club.

**Ahlivia Ingram Medal** – The award for a Rookie from the Canberra Region and the Canberra Raiders that debuted in the NRLW side is named after Ahlivia Ingram. Ingram was an inaugural squad member of the NRLW team and played her junior Rugby League at the Valley Dragons.



## SENIOR COMPETITIONS OVERVIEW

### BLUMERS LAWYERS CANBERRA RAIDERS CUP FIRST GRADE

Team	Played	Points	Wins	Draws	Losses	Byes	For	Against	Diff.
<b>Queanbeyan Kangaroos</b>	16	26	13	0	3	2	588	264	324
<b>Queanbeyan Blues</b>	16	22	11	0	5	2	494	298	196
<b>West Belconnen Warriors</b>	16	20	9	2	5	2	388	262	126
<b>Tuggeranong Bushrangers</b>	16	20	10	0	6	2	438	404	34
<b>Woden Valley Rams*</b>	16	19	8	3	5	2	348	340	8
<b>Gungahlin Bulls</b>	16	11	5	1	10	2	384	452	-68
<b>Belconnen United Sharks</b>	16	11	5	1	10	2	300	454	-154
<b>Goulburn City Bulldogs</b>	16	9	4	1	11	2	288	403	-115
<b>Yass Magpies</b>	16	6	3	0	13	2	263	614	-351

\*Woden Valley Rams were removed two competition points for a breach of the PPIS in Round 10 resulting in the West Belconnen Warriors receiving two competition points

The 2025 Blumers Lawyers Canberra Raiders Cup First Grade season ended with the Queanbeyan Blues denying their cross town rivals in the Queanbeyan Kangaroos of an historic three-peat in dramatic fashion at Seiffert Oval.

The season was highly competitive, especially among the top four teams, all of which were strong contenders for the title as finals approached.

The Kangaroos secured their third consecutive Minor Premiership, finishing ahead of the Blues, whilst the Warriors and Bushrangers both finished on 20 points, with the for and against of West Belconnen seeing them host the elimination final.

After a closely contested semi-finals series, the Queanbeyan rivals faced off in the Grand Final, for the second consecutive year.

Unlike last year, the Blues had the wood over the Kangaroos this season claiming victory twice in the regular season, before booking their Grand Final spot with a 28-16 win.

In the Grand Final, the Kangaroos were on the cusp of securing the three-peat, leading by eight with ten minutes remaining, before Dylan McLachlan guided his side to victory and in the process etching his name in Canberra Raiders Cup history, the Blues winning the decider 28-26.



## BLUMERS LAWYERS KATRINA FANNING SHIELD

Team	Played	Points	Wins	Draws	Losses	Byes	For	Against	Diff.
<b>West Belconnen Warriors</b>	12	21	10	1	1	5	384	140	244
<b>Belconnen United Sharks</b>	12	20	10	0	2	6	316	124	192
<b>Woden Valley Rams</b>	12	19	9	1	2	6	260	160	100
<b>Yass Magpies</b>	12	9	4	1	7	6	190	202	-12
<b>Gungahlin Bulls</b>	12	9	4	1	7	6	222	302	-80
<b>Tuggeranong Bushrangers</b>	12	4	2	0	10	6	158	290	-132
<b>Goulburn City Bulldogs</b>	12	2	1	0	11	6	94	406	-312

The Blumers Lawyers Katrina Fanning Shield culminated in a Grand Final showdown between the Belconnen United Sharks and West Belconnen Warriors, with the Warriors securing a comprehensive 40-6 victory.

The season was fiercely competitive, particularly the race for the top four and the minor premiership in the final rounds. At various points, multiple teams were tied on points, and the competition leader continually changed.

2025 was the second year where the competition didn't split into two tiers, which saw the top three teams excel, while the bottom four showed steady improvement.

The Belconnen United Sharks, in their second season, qualified for the Grand Final after a 28-10 win against the West Belconnen Warriors in the Major Semi Final.

The West Belconnen Warriors would bounce back against the Woden Valley Rams, who defeated the Yass Magpies in the Minor Semi Final, to return to the KFS Grand Final.

The Warriors would overturn the loss in the Major Semi Final, in a dominant display against the Sharks, with lock forward Aaliyah Lomas and centre Gabby Savage scoring four tries and Jay Huriwai being adjudged best on ground.



## BLUMERS LAWYERS CANBERRA RAIDERS CUP RESERVE GRADE

Team	Played	Points	Wins	Draws	Losses	Byes	For	Against	Diff.
<b>Gungahlin Bulls</b>	16	30	15	0	1	2	629	186	443
<b>Yass Magpies</b>	16	23	11	1	4	2	402	230	172
<b>West Belconnen Warriors</b>	16	22	11	0	5	2	500	228	272
<b>Tuggeranong Bushrangers</b>	16	22	11	0	5	2	440	254	186
<b>Woden Valley Rams</b>	16	15	7	1	8	2	442	386	56
<b>Goulburn City Bulldogs</b>	16	14	7	0	9	2	378	374	4
<b>Belconnen United Sharks</b>	16	8	4	0	12	2	288	552	-264
<b>Queanbeyan Blues</b>	16	6	3	0	13	2	187	762	-575
<b>Queanbeyan Kangaroos</b>	16	4	2	0	14	2	254	548	-294

The Blumers Lawyers Canberra Raiders Cup Reserve Grade showcased the growing depth of talent across the Open Men's grades.

The Gungahlin Bulls proved to be the team to beat once again, claiming their second Minor Premiership in three years by seven points.

The race for the remaining spots inside the top four were hotly contested, with the Magpies finishing with 23 points, one clear of the Warriors and Bushrangers, both with 22 points.

Gungahlin and Tuggeranong claimed strong wins in week one of the finals, with the Bulls advancing to the Grand Final.

The preliminary final was a tight encounter, with the Magpies edging out the Bushrangers 14-6, setting up a Grand Final between Yass and Gungahlin.

In a tight and physical encounter, scores were locked at four a piece when the Full-time whistle blew, which saw the match go to extra time. The Gungahlin Bulls prevailed in extra time securing the premiership 10-4, capping off an outstanding Reserve Grade season.



### BLUMERS LAWYERS UNDER 19's

Team	Played	Points	Wins	Draws	Losses	Byes	For	Against	Diff.
<b>Goulburn City Bulldogs</b>	16	30	15	0	1	2	446	130	316
<b>Tuggeranong Bushrangers</b>	16	23	11	1	4	2	416	221	195
<b>Belconnen United Sharks</b>	16	22	11	0	5	2	414	212	202
<b>Gungahlin Bulls</b>	16	18	9	0	7	2	344	232	112
<b>West Belconnen Warriors</b>	16	18	9	0	7	2	370	270	100
<b>Queanbeyan Blues</b>	16	13	6	1	9	2	296	296	0
<b>North Canberra Bears</b>	16	12	6	0	10	2	255	378	-134
<b>Woden Valley Rams</b>	16	4	2	0	14	2	202	450	-248
<b>Yass Magpies</b>	16	4	2	0	14	2	118	661	-543

The Blumers Lawyers Under 19's season delivered thrilling, closely contested matches each week, highlighting the young talent in the region.

Goulburn, Tuggeranong, Belconnen United Sharks, and Gungahlin emerged as the top contenders, setting the stage for an exciting finals series.

After qualifying for the finals on for and against, the Gungahlin Bulls secured a massive upset against the Belconnen United Sharks in Minor Semi Final.

Meanwhile, Goulburn, the minor premiers, earned a Grand Final spot with a decisive victory over the Bushrangers.

The Bulls continued their finals run with an impressive victory against the Bushrangers in the Preliminary Final.

However, it was second time lucky for the Bulldogs who secured a compelling 22-4 Grand Final victory against the Bulls overturning their defeat in last years decider.

It was also amazing to see many Under 19's players step up into first grade this year, signalling a bright future for the senior competitions.



## BLUMERS LAWYERS CANBERRA RAIDERS CUP LEAGUE TAG

Team	Played	Points	Wins	Draws	Losses	Byes	For	Against	Diff.
<b>Woden Valley Rams</b>	14	28	14	0	0	4	536	42	494
<b>Gungahlin Bulls</b>	14	24	12	0	2	4	420	50	370
<b>West Belconnen Warriors</b>	14	18	9	0	5	4	252	174	78
<b>Goulburn City Bulldogs</b>	14	16	8	0	6	4	156	208	-52
<b>Tuggeranong Bushrangers</b>	14	13	6	1	7	4	122	200	-78
<b>Yass Magpies</b>	14	7	3	1	10	4	76	288	-212
<b>Queanbeyan Blues</b>	14	6	3	0	11	4	90	362	-272
<b>Belconnen United Sharks</b>	14	0	0	0	14	4	68	396	-328

The Blumers Lawyers Canberra Raiders Cup League Tag season concluded with a nail-biting Grand Final, where the Gungahlin Bulls overcame the Woden Valley Rams 12-0.

The Rams were the team to beat once again in the League Tag, going undefeated, while the Bulls, their closest contender, only losing to the Rams throughout the year.

The Warriors and Bulldogs also competed strongly, rounding out the top four.

In the major semi-final, the Bulls flipped the script on the Rams claiming a comprehensive victory against the Rams to book their ticket in the Grand Final.

The Rams earned their spot in the final after a strong preliminary win over the Warriors, setting up a third consecutive Grand Final showdown against the Bulls.

The Bulls carried the confidence they built in the Major Semi Final performance, putting together a professional display to walk away with their first League Tag Premiership.



BLUMERS LAWYERS GEORGE TOOKE SHIELD OPEN MEN'S

Team	Played	Points	Wins	Draws	Losses	Byes	For	Against	Diff.	Rule 45
<b>Bungendore Tigers</b>	13	20	9	2	2	2	480	170	310	282.35
<b>Boorowa Rovers</b>	13	20	10	0	3	2	522	212	310	246.22
<b>Crookwell Green Devils</b>	13	20	10	0	3	2	365	202	163	-
<b>Harden Hawks</b>	13	19	9	1	3	2	476	156	320	-
<b>Binalong Brahmans</b>	13	15	7	1	5	2	318	252	66	-
<b>North Canberra Bears</b>	13	10	5	0	8	2	268	282	-14	-
<b>Snowy River Bears</b>	13	10	5	0	8	2	230	407	-177	-
<b>Googong Goannas</b>	13	4	2	0	11	2	132	562	-430	-
<b>UC Stars</b>	13	0	0	0	13	2	136	684	-548	-

The 2025 Blumers Lawyers George Tooke Shield Open Men's competition delivered an exciting race for the finals, with four teams separated by a singular point.

The race for the minor premiership saw constant shifts, with Bungendore, Boorowa, Crookwell, and Harden all in the mix until the final rounds.

Bungendore ultimately secured the minor premiership, finishing level with Boorowa on 20 points and after finishing on the same points differential, Rule 45 was needed to split the two. Crookwell finished in third position, one point clear of Harden in fourth and Binalong finished in fifth.

The finals series was fiercely competitive, culminating in a Bungendore vs. Harden Grand Final, a rematch of last years decider.

Bungendore secured their Grand Final spot with a 26-22 victory over Boorowa in the major semi-final, whilst Harden qualified after defeating Binalong, Crookwell and Boorowa in the Finals series.

It was the rested Bungendore, who prevailed in the decider in a hotly contested encounter, which ended 18-16 at Mick Sherd Oval.



### BLUMERS LAWYERS GEORGE TOOKE SHIELD LEAGUE TAG

Team	Played	Points	Wins	Draws	Losses	Byes	For	Against	Diff.
<b>North Canberra Bears</b>	13	24	12	0	1	3	290	82	208
<b>Harden Hawks</b>	11	20	10	0	1	4	313	76	237
<b>Crookwell Green Devils</b>	11	16	8	0	3	4	262	104	158
<b>Binalong Brahmans</b>	11	12	6	0	5	4	170	152	18
<b>Bungendore Tigers</b>	12	8	4	0	7	4	148	176	-28
<b>UC Stars</b>	12	6	3	0	9	4	206	273	-167
<b>Snowy River Bears</b>	12	4	2	0	10	3	86	263	-177
<b>Googong Goannas</b>	11	2	1	0	10	4	63	312	-249

The Blumers Lawyers George Tooke Shield League Tag saw Harden's dominance continue in 2025, as they secured their fourth consecutive title.

This marked their seventh championship win in ten Grand Finals, with the Hawks having qualified for ten out of a possible 11 Grand Finals since the competition began in 2014.

A percentage ladder was used in the George Tooke Shield League Tag, which saw North Canberra claim the minor premiership with 24 points, closely followed by Harden on 20, while Crookwell (16), Binalong (12), and Bungendore (8) completed the top five.

A victory to Harden in the Major Semi Final saw them qualify for another Grand Final, whilst North Canberra faced Crookwell the following week.

Crookwell proved too strong for North Canberra in the Preliminary Final, setting up another Grand Final against Harden.

In an exciting decider, Crookwell scored in the dying stages, however missed the conversion from sideline which handed Harden a dramatic 20-18 victory.

The tight scores throughout the season, particularly during finals, showcased the growing competitiveness of the GTS League Tag competition.



## CLUB CHAMPIONSHIPS

### BLUMERS LAWYERS CANBERRA RAIDERS CUP

Team	Firsts X4	Res X3	KFS X3	U19 X3	LT X3	Total
<b>West Belconnen Warriors</b>	76	60	57	32	36	261
<b>Gungahlin Bulls</b>	40	84	27	36	44	231
<b>Tuggeranong Bushrangers</b>	72	60	12	42	24	210
<b>Woden Valley Rams</b>	68	39	57	8	52	224
<b>Goulburn City Bulldogs</b>	36	36	6	56	32	166
<b>Belconnen United Sharks</b>	44	24	54	40	0	162
<b>Queanbeyan Blues</b>	88	18	-	26	12	144
<b>Yass Magpies</b>	24	69	21	8	12	134
<b>Queanbeyan Kangaroos</b>	96	12	-	-	-	108

Congratulations to the West Belconnen Warriors for winning the 2025 Canberra Raiders Cup Club Championship award.

The Club Championships rewards clubs for their overall participation and success across all senior competitions.



Figure 24 West Belconnen  
Warriors Canberra Raiders Cup  
Club Championship



### BLUMERS LAWYERS GEORGE TOOKE SHIELD

Team	Men's X4	LT X3	U19 X3	Total
<b>Harden Hawks</b>	292	272.7	-	564.7
<b>North Canberra Bears</b>	154	276.9	112.5	543.4
<b>Crookwell Green Devils</b>	307.6	218.1	-	525.70
<b>Bungendore Tigers</b>	307.6	99.9	-	407.50
<b>Binalong Brahmans</b>	230.4	163.2	-	393.6
<b>Boorowa Rovers</b>	307.6	-	-	307.6
<b>Snowy River Bears</b>	154	49.8	-	203.8
<b>Googong Goannas</b>	61.6	27.3	-	88.9
<b>UC Stars</b>	0	75	-	75

Congratulations to the Harden Hawks for winning the 2025 George Tooke Shield Club Championship award.

The Club Championships rewards clubs for their overall participation and success across all senior competitions.



Figure 25 Harden Hawks GTS Club Championship



## COMMUNITY REPORT

In 2025, the strong partnership between the Canberra Raiders Community Department and the Canberra Region Rugby League (CRRL) continued to thrive through the implementation of the Community Program Strategic Plan. This plan is built on five key pillars, with a particular focus this year on initiatives that support participants in their first year of involvement with CRRL.

Community engagement remained a cornerstone of our work, with NRL club visits once again proving to be a highlight of the season. All Canberra Raiders NRL



players returned to the roots of rugby league by visiting local community clubs, where many of their own rugby league journeys began. We extend our thanks to the incredible volunteers who dedicate their time and energy to running these local clubs. Your commitment is the foundation upon which our game is built. This season also saw increased involvement from our NRLW athletes, with Grace Kemp and Sophie Holyman attending training sessions alongside Coach Developer Liam Herbert. Their support played a key role in the ongoing development of female players and coaches across the region.

Throughout the 2025 season, several Canberra Raiders home games served as valuable opportunities to showcase the emerging talent

within CRRL competitions. Key highlights included a series of exhibition matches and the much-anticipated CRRL Half-Time Relay Race, which continues to be a fan favourite. These home games also provided a platform for the Score Raiders, who played with passion and determination throughout the season, facing off against new and competitive opposition. Their commitment and sportsmanship were a true reflection of the inclusive spirit of our game. In addition to celebrating on-field achievements, the CRRL Wheelchair Program was selected as the charity beneficiary for one Raiders home game. The Raiders Foundation 50-50 Charity Raffle on the day raised over \$2,000 for the program, directly supporting the growth and development of this important initiative.

This year, we also welcomed Headspace Tuggeranong as a new community partner, joining Menslink and Fearless Women in providing vital wellbeing support to our rugby league community. Their involvement strengthens our collective efforts to support CRRL clubs both on and off the field.



## CANBERRA REGION RUGBY LEAGUE

We would like to express our sincere appreciation to the Raiders Licensed Clubs in Belconnen, Gungahlin, Mawson, Weston, and Queanbeyan. Their continued support ensures that rugby league remains a strong, viable, and sustainable sport within the Canberra region. As we enjoy the off-season and look ahead to the 2026 season, the Raiders Community Department will continue to work closely with CRRL to create meaningful opportunities for engagement, learning, and growth across all levels of our game.

Community Engagement Manager

Jessica Crisp



Figure 27 CRRL Season Launch



## ACCREDITATION REPORT

Building on the success of our accreditation compliance in 2024, the 2025 season proved to be another outstanding year for CRRL. Thanks to the dedication of our accredited volunteers, both the Junior and Senior competitions continued to thrive.

As in previous seasons, we encountered challenges, but the ongoing communication and strong relationships between CRRL and our clubs enabled these to be addressed effectively. Whilst we are yet to achieve our goal of 100% compliance, the upward trend demonstrates continued progress and a collective commitment to raising standards across all areas of the game.

In 2025, CRRL and the NRL delivered comprehensive education and training programs to strengthen the capability of community volunteers and ensure the quality of our competitions.

This included:

- Community Coach Courses: Eleven for ages 6-12 and six for ages 13+
- League First Aid & Sports Trainer Courses: Eight courses



Figure 28 Monaro First Aider

These provided pathways for coaches and trainers to gain or renew their accreditation, supporting participants across all age groups.

A recurring challenge remains ensuring sufficient course availability for trainers, and we continue to organise additional sessions to accommodate growing registrations. Maintaining strong communication with clubs is crucial to ensure courses are filled efficiently.

Year	Coaches	% Change	Sports Trainers	% Change	League Safe	% Change
2023	789	-	562	-	1,292	-
2024	605	-23%	661	+18%	1,601	+24%
2025	976	+61%	635	-4%	1,749	+9%

Samantha Brown,

CRRL Competition & Accreditation Assistant



## INCLUSION PROGRAMS REPORT

2025 was another outstanding year for Canberra Region Rugby League's inclusion programs, with both the Rolling Raiders and Score Raiders continuing to grow, engage, and inspire. These programs have further cemented their place as vital pillars of community rugby league, offering people of all abilities the opportunity to participate, develop their skills, and enjoy the sport in a safe, inclusive, and welcoming environment.

The Wheelchair Rugby League program enjoyed a busy and rewarding calendar of events, designed to promote inclusion, skill development, and community participation. Highlights included a series of school-based clinics introducing students to the fundamentals of wheelchair rugby league, the Schools Gala Day which brought together students from across the region for a fun and competitive experience, and an interschool gala day hosted at Monaro High School. Participants also took part in a wheelchair rugby activation at the Maccas Masterclass, giving attendees a hands-on and interactive taste of the game. Further activations at several Canberra Raiders NRL matches allowed fans of all ages and abilities to experience the sport firsthand.

A major milestone this year was Canberra Region Rugby League's debut in the NRL Wheelchair Championships on the Gold Coast, marking the first time an ACT team has competed at this national event. The ACT team's outstanding performance saw them go undefeated and crowned national champions, an historic achievement that highlights the depth of local talent and represents a significant step forward for wheelchair rugby league in both the ACT and Australia.



Figure 29 NRL Wheelchair National Championship



Figure 30 Score Raiders Jersey Presentation

Another highlight came on April 7, when the Score Raiders received their 2025 jerseys at a special presentation ceremony. NRLW Raiders stars Zahara Temara, Chante Temara, and Claudia Finau were on hand to present the jerseys ahead of the team's final training session before their season opener against the Score Dragons at WIN Stadium in Wollongong.

The excitement continued July 12, when the Score Raiders took on the Score Sharks in a thrilling curtain-raiser ahead of the NRLW game at GIO Stadium. The match was a tightly contested and entertaining encounter that



## CANBERRA REGION RUGBY LEAGUE

showcased the growing skill, confidence, and teamwork of both squads. Played in the true spirit of rugby league, it was a celebration of sportsmanship, respect, and passion for the game.

Throughout the season, the Score Raiders also competed in weekly fixtures as part of the Canberra Region Rugby League competition, making an impressive run all the way to the Grand Final. In a dominant display, the team claimed the premiership title with a 46-12 victory over the Whistle Blowers an incredible way to cap off a memorable and successful season.

Samantha Brown,

CRRL Competition & Accreditation Assistant



## ROLLING RAIDERS SEASON WRAP

Building on the success of 2024, the 2025 season was another outstanding year for CRRL's inclusion programs, with the Rolling Raiders experiencing continued growth in participation and visibility, strengthening their roles as vital pillars of community rugby league and showcasing CRRL's ongoing commitment to accessibility and inclusion across all formats of the game.

Captain-coach Toby Popple once again led the team with experience and leadership, guiding both new and returning players through a demanding and competitive season. Zac Carl continued to impress as one of the league's top performers, making a strong impact in both attack and defence.

The 2025 season also saw several younger players step up and make valuable contributions to the squad. Many of these players travelled significant distances to compete each week, a testament to their commitment, passion, and love for the game.

While the team faced tough opposition throughout the year, the Raiders continued to build on their strong foundation, earning respect across the competition for their teamwork, spirit, and sportsmanship.

The Canberra Rolling Raiders' 2025 season was defined by resilience, growth, and community impact. Building on their 2024 premiership success, the team consolidated their position in a highly competitive NSW Cup competition. The semi-final, though a close contest, showcased the Raiders' skill, heart, and determination against a strong Dragons side.

### **2025 Match Results**

Round 1: Loss 56-30 vs South Sydney Rabbitohs

Round 2: Loss 70-38 vs Dragons

Round 4: Loss 22-30 vs South Sydney Rabbitohs

Round 5: Loss 64-44 vs Dragons

Round 6: Win 60-38 vs Eels

Round 7: Loss 64-28 vs South Sydney Rabbitohs

Round 8: Loss 70-48 vs Dragons

Round 9: Win vs Eels



Figure 31 Toby Popple



## CANBERRA REGION RUGBY LEAGUE

Semi-Final: Loss 54-30 vs Dragons

Despite a challenging draw, the Raiders displayed consistent improvement across the season, both individually and as a team. The mix of experience and youth within the squad proved invaluable, laying a strong foundation for continued development.

Looking ahead to 2026, the Rolling Raiders are focused on building on this year's progress by expanding participation, supporting regional players through better travel and training opportunities, and strengthening pathways into representative programs. With continued growth and commitment, the Raiders are well positioned for an even stronger season next year.

Samantha Brown,  
CRRL Competition & Accreditation Assistant



## COACH DEVELOPER REPORT

The coach developer role has been incredibly well received around the junior rugby league community, with it being a fantastic experience for myself and the hard-working volunteer coaches. The opportunity to visit local coaches and build relationships has not only created the foundations for this role in years to come but has allowed me to really understand where each coach needs support.

One instrument I have introduced to help refine where support is needed is the simple yet highly effective traffic light system. This is a way for coaches to be measured regarding whether they are suitable for the role, and what level of support they need from myself or the club moving forward.

This tool was used to observe coaches both on match days and during training sessions. Coaches were not told on match days if I would be in attendance, so that a genuine assessment could be made. However, coaches were always notified upon a training visit from myself, so they could use the resource to the full potential and ask for help.

In 2025, I was quite happy with the behaviour across the board of our junior coaches. The coaching template which was created in collaboration with each club gave coaches a clear understanding around the minimum expectations throughout the season. Transparent guidelines such as coaching the fundamentals, teaching life skills, prioritising inclusion and fun, were all driven by clubs and myself to ensure that coaches were understanding of what is acceptable. Along with the coaching template, other resources were created and facilitated such as the CRRL coach education website, the coaches corner group chat, and in-person workshops to help provide further support and options for coaches to learn about ways to give our junior players the best experience possible.

After reflecting on 2025 and moving into 2026, learnings and areas have been identified for more specific resources to be added and provided into the coming season. The first key focus for myself in 2026 will be working with and providing a clear outline of duties for our coaching coordinators to execute throughout the season. The aim is for coaching coordinators to provide more frequent face-to-face support to club coaches. This will allow coaches to receive the correct and regular support needed to thrive throughout the season, rather than waiting for



Figure 32 Coach the Coaches Night at Bungendore



the occasional visit from the coach developer. Coaching coordinators will also have increased communication with myself, to ensure I am up to date with which specific coaches that need more attention, but also to provide the correct advice, tools and resources to coaching coordinators, to be proactive and provide necessary support for local coaches to excel.

Coaching manuals have also been developed and will be rolled out to every coach within the region. This will include what is expected from a behavioural and facilitating perspective, as well as rules, guidelines and curriculums for coaches to follow throughout the season.

New workshops such as “Facilitating the fundamentals” and “Mandatory educational sessions” will be rolled out in 2026. This is to ensure that we get the best possible results from our coaches and provides us with the best chance of our players receiving a great experience.

I look forward to building and adding to the coach developer role in 2026 and ensuring that coaching quality is a key factor in making Rugby League a great game for all.

Liam Herbert

CRRL Coach Developer



## GAME DEVELOPMENT REPORT



Figure 33 School Blitz

NRL Canberra have had a huge year in 2025, with many positive numbers coming out of the last calendar year. Highlights of the year include Mr Jon Tucker from Charles Conder School receiving the national Westpac NRL Teacher of the Year for 2025. We are proud to have a teacher from our region selected the second year running and thank Mr Tucker for his tireless devotion to the game both within the school community and the wider Rugby League Community. Our annual Raiders Blitz in 2025 saw us reach a massive 38 schools with over 8,500 students reached in one day.

In 2025 we said goodbye and a huge thank you to Game Development Officer Shane Read as he moves into other spaces within Rugby League. NRL Canberra have been lucky to have you over the past number of years, and we wish you well in your future endeavours.

League Stars, our after-school introductory program for Rugby League, saw some big numbers with Term 1 taking us to Cooma to see 48 students mainly from Cooma North Public School. Term 2 saw 9 participants at Charles Conder, and Term 3 was hugely positive with 34 participants from Forrest Primary School. Both the April and July school holidays saw our largely successful Maccas Masterclass clinics alongside the Canberra Raiders sell out with 220 participants each. In October we took our holiday clinic to Crookwell where we saw an impressive 32 participants for some school holiday fun.

Tackle Ready this year was rolled out across 3 venues: Cooma, Goulburn and Canberra. This year the format was updated to a three gala day format with sessions rolled out by Game Development staff and supported by the coaches. We were pleased to watch the confidence and competence of the u7s improve over the 7 weeks of Tackle Ready.

During the school terms, 2025 saw us reach more schools than ever with our Sporting Schools programs with schools including:

- Karabar High School - Term 1, 2, 3 and 4
- Charles Conder All Abilities - Term 1 and 3
- Charles Conder K-2 after-school - Term 1
- Cooma North Public School - Term 1
- Jerrabomberra High School - Term 2
- Crookwell High School - Term 2
- Gunning Public School - Term 3



Figure 34 Goulburn Tackle Ready Graduation



- Dalton Public School - Term 3
- Evelyn Scott School - Term 3
- UC Kaleen High School - Term 3
- Goulburn Public K-2 - Term 4
- Mulwaree High School - Term 4

### Primary School Events

In 2025, primary school events continued to grow in leaps and bounds with high numbers of schools and participants at each gala day, and new schools engaged across the board. Most notably, Goulburn increased to 50+ teams at both K-2 and 3-6 offerings, and Canberra North saw a huge increase in numbers also.

Details below with most notable increases outlined:

- Meninga/Daley Legends Day North - 19 teams, 4 schools
- Meninga/Daley Legends Day South - 26 teams, 5 schools
- Harry Nichols Legends Day Cooma - 28 teams, 7 schools
- Gilbert/Croker Legends Day Goulburn - 56 teams, 9 schools (increased from 19 teams in 2023)
- Sullivan Shield North - 14 teams, 7 schools
- Sullivan Shield South - 21 teams, 10 schools
- Classic Shield (PSSA progression) - 5 schools, Wollondilly and Crookwell progressed to the South Coast finals day
- Raiders Tag North - 49 teams, 11 schools (increased from 30 teams in 2024)
- Raiders Tag South - 72 teams, 15 schools
- K-2 Raiders Tag North - 34 teams, 6 schools (increase from 10 teams from 3 schools in 2024)
- K-2 Raiders Tag South - 42 teams, 10 schools
- K-2 Raiders Tag Goulburn - 54 teams, 11 schools (increase from 21 teams from 3 schools in 2024)
- K-6 Raiders Tag Cooma - 48 teams, 7 schools (increase from 27 teams in 2024)
- K-6 Raiders Tag Yass - 32 teams



Figure 35 Raiders Tag South

### Secondary School Events

In 2025 we saw several secondary schools participate in gala days across the region with many teams progressing to finals days.

- University Shield - Karabar u18s took on Bass Hill HS in a home game clash where they were defeated.
- Buckley Shield - Congratulations to Mulwaree HS u14s defeating Griffith HS. Mulwaree then hosted a home game against North Sydney where they were narrowly defeated.



- County Cup Canberra - St Francis Xavier took on Caroline Chisholm in the u13s where they took out the win and progressed through to Wagga Wagga for the final's day, as too did their u15s. Both did not progress any further.
- Schoolboy Trophy u18s - Gungahlin College narrowly defeated Lake Ginninderra to progress to Wagga Wagga. Erindale won the day overall in Canberra.

Katrina Fanning 9's - 12 teams, 10 schools

- U14s Winner - UC Kaleen
- U16s Winner - Yass High
- U18s Winner - Gungahlin College

Katrina Fanning Monaro Finals

- 14s - Narooma High defeated University of Canberra High School Kaleen
- 16s - Lumen Christi Catholic College defeated Yass High
- 18s - Narooma High automatically progressed to the final's day in Wagga Wagga

Alan Tongue Cup North - 17 teams, 10 schools

- U14s Winner - Daramalan
- U16s Winner - Karabar
- U18s Winner - Lake Ginninderra

Alan Tongue Cup South - 8 teams, 5 schools

- U14s Winner - Trinity CC Goulburn
- U16s Winner - Erindale College
- U18s Winner - Erindale College Black

Ladies League Tag North - 9 teams, 4 schools

- U14s Winner - Trinity CC Goulburn
- U16s Winner - Melba Copland
- U18s Winner - Daramalan
- Mixed League Tag North - 44 teams, 16 schools
- Mixed League Tag South - 16 teams, 7 schools

Finally, we would like to say a huge thank you to all the volunteers, clubs and schools that make all of our work possible, we love working alongside you all. The support from the CRRL and our wider Southern NRL team is always appreciated as our gala days continue to grow year-on-year.

Here's to an even bigger and better 2026!

Taylor Giggins  
NRL Canberra Game Development Officer



## REPRESENTATIVE FOOTBALL WRAP

### MONARO COLTS OPEN MEN'S (COUNTRY CHAMPIONSHIPS)

After making the 2024 Country Championship Grand Final, the Monaro Colts were looking to overturn last year's result in their 2025 campaign.

In their only round game against the Illawarra South Coast Dragons, the attacking ability of Monaro was on full display, claiming victory 36-30, Connor Williams impressed by scoring a hat-trick, while Lucas Thomson proved the difference with the boot.

With victory, Monaro qualified for the Semi Finals and set up a date against the Northern Rivers, which proved too difficult for the Colts as the Titans claimed a dominant 56-12 win.



Figure 36 Brenden Jiminez

Tomasi Bikaca starred for the Colts in the Country Championship, with his performance earning him selection in the Country team, as well as the Hewson/Stonham Medal at the Les McIntyre Medal awards night, recognised by the coaches as the Monaro Colts Player of the Year

**Squad:** Josh Ayers (Queanbeyan Kangaroos), Tomasi Bikaca (Woden Valley), JJ Clarkson (Queanbeyan Blues), Jesse Dent (Queanbeyan

Kangaroos), Apenisa Driti (Gungahlin), Jayden Ford (Gungahlin), James Hickey (Queanbeyan Blues), Luke Ingram (Bombala), Brendan Jiminez (Woden Valley), Zac Mackay (Moruya), Sean Maloney (Woden Valley), Jesse Martin (Woden Valley), Dylan McLachlan (Queanbeyan Blues), Zac Patch (Belconnen United), Kosta Posantzis (Woden Valley), Blake Robinson (Eden), Lucas Thomson (Queanbeyan Kangaroos) Komiti Tuilangi, Sonny Tupuola (Belconnen United), Thomas Watego (Belconnen United), Connor Williams (Queanbeyan Blues) and Allan Wratten (Queanbeyan Blues)

**Coach:** Jason Kelly



### **MONARO COLTS OPEN WOMEN'S (COUNTRY CHAMPIONSHIPS)**

The Monaro Colts Women's team combined a strong collection of players from around the Canberra Region, highlighting the strength of the KFS and female rugby league.

In their opening game, the Colts travelled to the Central West for a matchup against the Western Rams, where a slow start saw them trail at half time 16-0 and despite winning the second half, they suffered defeat.



Figure 37 Gabbie Davis

However, this strong finish to the game provided the Colts with confidence, which they took into their next game against the Riverina Bulls at NSWRL HQ Bruce, claiming a 54-0 victory.

Despite a strong second game, it wasn't enough for the Colts to qualify for the Grand Final, finishing third. Madyson Tooth was named the Open Women's Monaro Colts Player of the Year at the Les McIntyre Medal Awards night.

**Squad:** Samara Afele (Yass), Elisa Akpa (Gungahlin), Emily Banks (Yass), Tamsyn Cairns (Woden Valley), Lara Cosgrove (Woden Valley), Lily Croker (Gungahlin), Gabbie Davis (Yass), Tikirah Douglas (Gungahlin), Indi Dyball (Woden Valley), Lola Fletcher (West Belconnen), Sophie Gaynor (Yass), Jade Harding (West Belconnen), Sydney Harrison (Yass), Elly Hazelton (Goulburn), Teliya Hetaraka (Tuggeranong), Jess Howard (Yass), Aaliyah Lomas (West Belconnen), Madyson Tooth (Goulburn), Ana Vaana (Woden Valley), Amelia Vea (West Belconnen), Eilish Winbank (Queanbeyan Blues) and Georgia Willey (Belconnen United)

**Coach:** David Small



### **ANDREW JOHNS CUP (UNDER 16s)**

The Monaro Colts Andrew Johns Cup team suffered a slow start in their 2025 campaign with two heavy defeats against Northern River and Macarthur in the opening two rounds.

Starting on the back foot, the Colts needed to win the remainder of their games if they were to feature in the finals and with wins against the Western Rams and Riverina Bulls it looked like a possibility.



Figure 38 Matthew Atkinson

However, a tight six-point loss against the Illawarra South-Coast resulted in Monaro falling just short of the knockout tournament, finishing third in their pool with a 2-3 record.

Despite missing out on the finals, the SLE Andrew Johns Cup provides players in the region with great developmental opportunities, with this side transitioning into the Laurie Daley Cup and then into the Open Men's grade.

**Squad:** Kayden Adams (Moruya), Declan Adams (Moruya), Noah Adams (Moruya), Matthew Atkinson (Goulburn), Lachlan Brown (Yass), Gabriel Chauvin (Belconnen United), Dustin Cluss (Queanbeyan Blues), Tom Connolly (Belconnen United), Jack Edwards (West Belconnen), Drew Kemp (Belconnen United), Karney Kelly (Woden Valley), Cooper Leslie (Gungahlin), Max Lundy (Belconnen United), Drew Marshall (Narooma), Joshua McKenzie (Gungahlin), Geoffrey Olivetti (Woden Valley), Tama Robin (Merimbula-Pambula), Kristan Robertson (Queanbeyan Blues), Jack Ryan (West Belconnen), Charlie Sasse (Goulburn), Nate Stokes (Cooma), Joshua Svager (Queanbeyan Blues), Ezra Taiatini (Woden Valley), Brayden Worth (Belconnen United) and Marlowe Young (Goulburn)

**Coach:** Jack Bramley



### LAURIE DALEY CUP (UNDER 18s)

After a historic 2024 campaign which saw the Monaro Colts claim the Laurie Daley Cup for the first time, the Under 18s were out to defend their title.

Their title defence began with a shaky start, with a heavy defeat against the Northern Rivers Titans, before two close losses against the Macarthur Wests Tigers and Western Rams.

These two matches provided the Colts with confidence that they were close to that first win of the campaign, which came in the following weeks of the tournament in dominant fashion against the Riverina Bulls and Illawarra South-Coast.

Unfortunately, with the defeats early in the season, the Colts missed out on the finals and the opportunity to defend their crown, as they finished third in the pool with a 2-3 record.



Figure 39 Kruger Roache

**Squad:** Benjamin Baker (Woden Valley), Jayden Barratt (Queanbeyan Blues), Joseph Brierley (Batemans Bay), Byron Cahill (West Belconnen), Troy Codey (Queanbeyan Blues), Angus Durbidge (West Belconnen), Russel Emelio (Belconnen United), Judah-Fai Filiga (Cooma), Samuel Green (West Belconnen), Thomas Handsaker (Goulburn), Ryan Johnston (Moruya), Ben Kami, Patrick Koen (Yass), Jack Leighton (West Belconnen), Jaylan May (West Belconnen), Jack Milne (Parkes), Thomas Moss (Goulburn), Trent Nagel (Quenabeyan Blues), Kruger Roache (Woden Valley), Harry Sawyer (West Belconnen), Calum Smith (Batemans Bay), Blake Slater (West Belconnen), Zildjian Tafili (Gungahlin), Malachi Tomlinson (Goulburn), Levi Woods (Goulburn) and Dempsey Woolf (Queanbeyan Blues)

**Coach:** Brenden Bradley



### **REGIONAL LISA FIAOLA CUP (UNDER 17s FEMALE)**

The Monaro Colts Regional Lisa Fiaola Cup squad faced a difficult 2025 campaign coming up against strong opposition.

2025 was the second season where the Monaro Colts featured in the Regional Lisa Fiaola Cup, providing young female Rugby League players with an opportunity to represent the region.

After a strong season last year, the Regional Lisa Fiaola Cup side experienced a high turnover of players which provided a fantastic opportunity for new players to represent the region.



Figure 40 Lisa Fiaola Cup Representative

Although they didn't win a game, the group competed strongly and gained valuable experience which they were able to take back to their club football and improve their individuals' games.

With majority of the squad competing as bottom age players, eyes will be looking forward to next season with excitement about what they can do.

**Squad:** Shanice Amos (Tuggeranong), Ella Barker (Cooma), Teyah Casey (Belconnen United), Riley Clark (West Belconnen), Ashlee Chinnery (Goulburn), Molly Cowling (Goulburn), Jayda Cunanan (Woden Valley), Kaylin Delaney (Belconnen United), Poppy Elphick (West Belconnen), Elsie Harmer (Goulburn), Cameryn Kelly (Belconnen United), Lorelli Kidman (Quenabeyan Kangaroos), Kira Morison (Quenabeyan Blues), Abbie Morrice (West Belconnen), Charli Rhall (Goulburn), Hannah Robinson (Tuggeranong), Maddie Riches (Belconnen United), Arden Stepanek (Belconnen United), Maddison Searles (Belconnen United), Chloe Sutton (Belconnen United), Ruby Taws (Woden Valley), Ella Taylor (South Coast United) and Macayla Todkill (Quenabeyan Kangaroos)

**Coach:** Carrie Mitchell



## NSWRL WESTPAC BLUES TAG GALA DAY - OPENS

After a successful tournament last year, the CRRL Open's outfit was out to defend their crown in the 2025 Westpac Blue's Tag Carnival.

A dominant group stage saw CRRL claim 18-0 victories over St George and Western Australia, with the side remaining undefeated after drawing with the Central Coast.

This strong group stage resulted in the side being crowned minor premiers, setting up a contest in the Semi Final against Western Australia, where they secured the win and advanced to the Grand Final.

Unfortunately, CRRL Opens were unable to go back-to-back suffering defeat against the Central Coast in the Grand Final 6-0.

Australian Tag and Touch Representative player Jess Crowe led from the front with her performances, whilst Clare Smith also starred playing the tournament whilst still recovering from a broken arm.

**Squad:** Abbey Sutherland (Gungahlin Bulls), Clare Smith (Harden Hawks), Ellie Hyland (Gungahlin Bulls), Ellie Schoobert (Bungendore Tigers), Emily Warner (Gungahlin Bulls), Emma James (Harden Hawks), Georgia Smith (Gungahlin Bulls), Jess Crowe (Gungahlin Bulls), Lahni Hall (Gungahlin Bulls), Mackenzie Alcock (Woden Valley Rams), Maddie Hyland (Gungahlin Bulls), Matisse McNair (Gungahlin Bulls), Meaghan Scott (Tuggeranong Bushrangers), Mia O'Connor (Tuggeranong Bushrangers), Taylah Wilson (Harden Hawks), Taylor Giggins (UC Stars) and Tijana Zdraveska (Gungahlin Bulls)

**Coach:** Darren Grocott



Figure 41 CRRL Open and U16 Representative League Tag



## **NSWRL WESTPAC BLUES TAG GALA DAY - UNDER 16s**

The 2025 Blues Tag Carnival was the first time that the Under 16s age group contested the event, with the CRRL sending a competitive outfit.

After starting off the Gala Day with an 8-4 defeat against North Sydney, the CRRL bounced back to have a strong group stage.

The attacking ability of the CRRL side was on full display in the remaining games in the group stage, with a 22-0 win over Group 11, 10-2 win against Group 10 and

comprehensive 18-4 victory against Group 16 South.



Figure 42 U16 CRRL League Tag Representative Team

These strong performances resulted in the side receiving the Minor Premiership and set up a match against the Central Coast in the Semi Finals.

Similar to the Opens side, the CRRL's quest for the title would be halted by the Central Coast with a try in the dying stages of the match ending the Under 16s campaign.

Fullback Amarli Hall starred for the CRRL scoring three tries on the day; however, it was her defensive efforts which impressed, whilst captain Bella Creech led from the front with her performances.

**Squad:** Ada Dunn (Crookwell Green Devils), Alexis Buckley-Turner (Goulburn Stockmen), Amarli Hall (Queanbeyan Kangaroos), Annika Klem (Goulburn Stockmen), Bella Creech (Queanbeyan Kangaroos), Bonnie Whitehead (Yass Magpies), Caitlin Butler (West Belconnen Warriors), Charlotte Tetley (Crookwell Green Devils), Emily Reid (Belconnen United Sharks), Jada Baker (Queanbeyan Kangaroos), Lacey Britton (Goulburn Stockmen), Mia Buser (Woden Valley Rams), Ricki-Lee Couch (Queanbeyan Kangaroos), Ruby Lynn (Goulburn Stockmen), Skye Drinkell (Woden Valley Rams), Skye Edwards (Goulburn Stockmen), Sophie Baker (Yass Magpies)

**Coach:** Taylor Giggins



### **GEORGE TOOKE SHIELD OPEN MEN'S REP TEAM**

It was an impressive afternoon for the GTS Open's Men team with the side going unbeaten in their two games.

The altered format provided the George Tooke Shield with an opportunity to face the Regan Cup for the first time, and it was an impressive 20-6 win.

Austin Power was the focal point of the attack in the opening game with the fullback scoring two tries.

In the annual George Tooke Shield vs Woodbridge Cup match the side secured a comprehensive 20-4 victory.

Cooper Cross was instrumental in guiding GTS to their second victory of the day with the five eighth scoring two tries and slotting two conversions, whilst Jayden Cutting also crossed for a double.

**Squad:** Dylan Ahosivi (Bungendore Tigers), Trent Brown (North Canberra Bears), Jesse Collins (Bungendore Tigers), Cooper Cross (Boorowa Rovers), Jayden Cutting (Harden Hawks), Steve Cummins (Crookwell Green Devils), Harrison Elphick (Binalong Brahmans), Will Goode (Binalong Brahmans), Michael Gordon (Bungendore Tigers), Lachlan Holten (North Canberra Bears), Bailey Lanham (Crookwell Green Devils), Simione Latu (Bungendore Tigers), Brad Laurent (Bungendore Tigers), Rueben Olah (Binalong Brahmans), Austin Power (Boorowa Rovers), Chris Rawlinson (Binalong Brahmans), Rhys Secombe (Crookwell Green Devils), Hamish Scott (Boorowa Rovers) and Alex Stewart (Boorowa Rovers)

**Coach:** Chris Rawlinson



*Figure 43 Brad Laurent and Chris Rawlinson*



### GEORGE TOOKE SHIELD LEAGUE TAG REP TEAM

The George Tooke Shield League Tag side secured a tight two-point victory over the Woodbridge Cup which sees the side retain the annual trophy.

In the closest contest of the afternoon, Taylor Giggins opened the scoring for GTS before a try to Laura Price put the Woodbridge Cup up by two points.

With the game on the line, it was Georgia Smith who stood up for GTS and crossed for the match winning try, securing an important victory.



Figure 44 GTS League Tag Representative Team

**Squad:** Kimberly Allport (Crookwell Green Devils), Eliza Butt (Harden Hawks), Kaylee Charlton (North Canberra Bears), Samantha Charlton (North Canberra Bears), Erin Dalley (North Canberra Bears), Jayde Della (Crookwell Green Devils), Tahnee Lee Della (Crookwell Green Devils), Taylor Giggins (UC Stars), Kody-Leigh Hirst (Bungendore Tigers), Emma James (Harden Hawks), Annie Kent

(Binalong Brahmans), Ellie Shoobert (Bungendore Tigers), Clare Smith (Harden Hawks), Georgia Smith (Harden Hawks) and Taylah Wilson (Harden Hawks)

**Coaches:** Taylor Giggins & Emma James



### **GEORGE TOOKE SHIELD UNDER 18s REP TEAM**

The Canberra Region Rugby League Under 18s secured an impressive come from behind victory over the Woodbridge Cup Under 18s.



Figure 45 GTS Under 18 Representative Team

After trailing by ten points early in the contest, CRRL put on four unanswered tries which saw the side secure victory in the inaugural Under 18s Challenge Cup matchup.

Winger Henry Perkins kick started the comeback with CRRL's first two tries, before forwards Tyler Buchanan and Rory Arabin put the result beyond doubt.

**Squad:** Rory Arabin (Queanbeyan Blues), Lachlan Buckley (Tuggeranong

Bushrangers), Tyler Buchanan (Gungahlin Bulls), Robert Demetriou (Tuggeranong Bushrangers), Ethan Harwood (Woden Valley Rams), Ashton Hayes (Tuggeranong Bushrangers), Blake Kemp (North Canberra Bears), Ryan Korbl (West Belconnen Warriors), Jet Krsteski (Queanbeyan Blues), Cooper Lovekin (Queanbeyan Blues), Henry Perkins (Goulburn City Bulldogs), Phinehas Ronen (Belconnen United Sharks), Illija Scerba (North Canberra Bears), Sam Watkin (Queanbeyan Blues), Riley Voutos (South Tuggeranong Knights) and Cohen Weatherby (South Tuggeranong Knights).

**Coach:** Liam Herbert



## REFEREES REPORT

In 2025 the Canberra Region Rugby League competition increased player participation to become the third largest District in New South Wales. Female participation was again a driver for this increase. This increase saw our Association officiating approximately 235 games of tackle and tag rugby league each weekend. Our members should be congratulated on the professionalism and dedication they showed throughout the season. As usual for Canberra we had quite a few mornings that were very “cold” and a testament to the commitment and dedication of members that they continued to turn up each weekend to officiate.

Recruitment continued to be very strong with Twenty-Nine (29) candidates undertaking the Community Referees U6-U12 Years course. The Association also facilitated Sixty-Eight (68) members of the RISE program as well, with a number already joining our Association. As most are still playing Rugby League, the challenge has been to arrange their match appointments around their games. Our local Referee Development Officer Tim Bailey continued to provide his support in the recruitment, accreditation and education arena.

We are lucky to have organisations such as the Canberra Raiders, Canberra Region Rugby League and NSW Rugby League Referees Association support our Association and provide resources and assistance with recruitment and development of referees. The support from the CRRL staff, especially General Manager Mark Vergano and Chairman Gary Green cannot be under-estimated. Incidents involving unsavory conduct by players, officials or spectators were swiftly dealt with by the League, sending a strong message that poor behaviour is not acceptable and match officials will be supported by them. The assistance provided by Deb Charman and Stacey Studholme cannot be underestimated. The time and effort they put into coordinating the Senior and Junior competitions greatly assists the operations of our Association.

In 2025, Canberra referees rolled out some changes in coaching and development. A change in trainers brought new ideas and a consistent attendance, on average 20 referees attended weekly training, with changes to a new on-field management structure. These changes provide new pieces of education through a weekly coaching note sent out, video coaching clips supplied to referees and a new coaching form.

We saw a lot of referees get a chance to prove themselves in the middle, on the line, with everyone taking the opportunity to learn from it and improve.



Figure 46 Canberra Raiders Cup Grand Final Referees



## CANBERRA REGION RUGBY LEAGUE

We unfortunately lost a few games to forfeits but our game did grow in the female arena and has proven to grow year on year.

Our Association held a successful Referee Exchange with Cronulla – 1st Grade Andrew Nightingale, Reserve Grade Jack Black, and U19's Billy Perrott. The feedback was very positive. We have a significant number of Junior referees coming through which will hopefully build a strong base for our Association in 2026.

The most important part of our Association are its members. The game can't be played without referees, and our referees can't do their job without the support they receive from all members within the Association. 2025 saw the introduction of a Director of Welfare which is a welcome addition to the Board and emphasises the Associations commitment to the wellbeing of its members.

The future of our Association relies on the retention and development of new referees. Our junior coordinators and coaches played a key role in supporting our junior referees and did an outstanding job in their development which improves

their overall experience and subsequent retention in our Association.

Congratulations to Matthew Hall upon receiving Life Membership of our Association and thank you to all our Board members and Sub-Committee members for the assistance they provided throughout the year.



Figure 47 Matthew Hall Life Membership

Chris NIGHTINGALE

Executive Officer



## JUDICIARY REPORT

In alignment with the NSWRL there were some changes to the way in which penalties for offences were calculated this year. Previously calculations for offences were points based with discounts available for early pleas and records of good behaviour over several years. This year penalties were moved to matches and the only discount being one match for an early plea regardless of the offence. Rather than loadings for multiple offences within 2 years, a 1st - 4th offence system was introduced, for each subsequent offence the penalty increased regardless of the offence. This new schedule of penalties did prove expensive for some players with multiple offences within the two-year period.



Figure 48 Queanbeyan Kangaroos vs Tuggeranong Bushrangers

Of all offences in the season for senior grades, first, reserve and under 19's accounted for over half of all initially charged. In the juniors there were 35 proven offences, a pleasing result given the number of players across the eleven age groups and multiple teams represented in these cohorts.

Striking, Dangerous Contact and Dangerous Throws were the most common offences across all grades. Concerningly three other offences, Offensive Language in general, Offensive Language directed at a match official also appeared strongly across all grades. Homophobic comments were unfortunately very high particularly in the 16 - 19 years cohorts.

The behaviour of spectators, supporters and team officials featured several times at hearings and in missives to clubs. Abuse of match officials and offensive language in general will not be tolerated and will draw significant penalties in the 2026 season.

In response to this the judicial hearing panels are increasingly applying Good Behaviour Bonds as part of their penalty for offences around the above groups. Clubs are again reminded that they are responsible on game day, not only for their teams and officials but also for spectators and supporters. Failure to ensure that adequate responses are made for inappropriate sideline behaviour may lead to further action being taken by the Match Review Committee and the CRRL.

The judicial hearings are heard each Wednesday by an independent panel made up of two panel members and the hearing chairperson. Hearings are often lengthy, and thanks must go to the three chairpersons and the six rotating panel members for their efforts and the volunteering of their time.

Glyn Sargent – Match Review Committee Chair



## MEDIA REPORT

The Canberra Region Rugby League's media presence continued to expand in 2025, driven by the implementation of digital media and communications strategies established in the off-season.

Building on last year's holistic media approach, the CRRL media coverage in 2025 has been comprehensive and all-encompassing of all our products, including various genders, age groups, and our community and inclusive initiatives.

Through this comprehensive approach, CRRL has experienced growth across all digital platforms, yielding notable engagement insights on our website and our social media channels.

### Website

Aside from providing essential information such as fixtures, programs, rules and regulations, and other administrative documents, our website serves as a platform to tell the stories of the CRRL through a continuous flow of written content.

In 2025, the CRRL website attracted over 245,000 viewers, with 60% of these views coming from our written articles with this remaining our most effective way to reach our target audience and provide them with the latest news and information about all competitions. Along with a strong number of views, the CRRL website experienced over 80 000 active users to the website in 2025. As seen below, squad announcements and team lists feature heavily in our top ten articles, with this aiming to be maximised through additional information in next year's team list documents and squad announcements.

Top 10 Articles 2025	Views
CRRL Announce Development Squads	5330
Woden Valley Rams PPIS	3901
Monaro Colts Squads Announcement	2948
Monaro Colts Country Championships Squad Announcement	2833
GTS Rep Sides Take on Woodbridge Cup	2603
George Tooke Shield Ladder Update	2526
Vale Ian Baker	1913
Westpac Blues Tag Gala Day	1641
Les McIntyre Medal Award Winners	1487
Team Lists April 5	1332



## Social Media

The Canberra Region Rugby League social media channels have continued to exponentially grow over the 2025 season. Facebook remains our most popular platform with 18 906 followers, which is an 8.41% increase on last year. Instagram has been our most successful platform over the past twelve months, with a 32.99% increase in followers, with this change being attributed to the increased video and player focused content. X formerly known as Twitter, historically has been our weakest platform, however this season experienced strong growth when compared to previous years, increasing by 5.02%. This growth can be attributed to live commentary on the Canberra Raiders Cup Grand Final day which provided live updates for people unable to attend and drew individuals towards that platform.



Figure 49 Tomasi Bikaca

## The Rub of the Green



Figure 50 Summer Luamanu

The Rub of the Green podcast maintained a consistent listener base throughout the season with the numbers consistent with the last two seasons. This provides us with an understanding that we have a solid listener base, however it highlights that a change to the format is required to ensure the podcast grows along with our other channels.

A special thanks goes to James “Sully” Sullivan for his dedications in leading the show this year. Sully’s contributions as CRRL’s lead commentator and media personality at the Les McIntyre Medal have been invaluable.

## BarTV

In 2025 CRRL expanded our BarTV coverage with the introduction of the George Tooke Shield Match of the Round and Friday Night Juniors coverage. This complimented the existing coverage from BarTV which provides free Facebook live streams every weekend and filming all senior competition matches and comprehensive coverage of our Junior Grand Finals, with appreciated flexibility to accommodate schedule changes.

The added commentary elevates the professionalism and entertainment value for viewers. A big thank you goes to Sully, Chris Coleman, Jack Wunsh, Morgan Campbell and Raiders media interns, Declan Connell



Figure 51 James "Sully" Sullivan (Left) & Declan Connell (Right)



## CANBERRA REGION RUGBY LEAGUE

and Ella Colquhoun for their contributions to our Match of the Round coverage.

### Closing Remarks

The Canberra Region Rugby League Media landscape remains an exciting space with consistent growth being experienced on social media and our website. The CRRL would like to thank Liam Wyllie who over the last two years continued the work of Jon Kroiter, Rosie Harrison and Finn Williamson and contributed significantly to helping the development of growth of Rugby League in the region.

As we move into 2026, we do so with a significant amount of optimism about where the CRRL media landscape can progress with emphasis to be placed on external media relationships, expansion of our commentary team opportunities and transformation of the Rub of the Green podcast.

### CRRL Social Channels

Facebook: 18 936



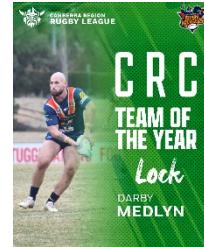
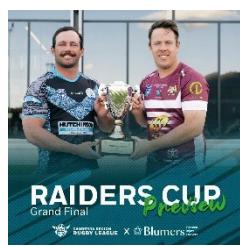
Instagram: 7 078



X: 646



### CRRL Social Tiles





## LIFE MEMBERS

### Canberra District Rugby League (Raiders) Life Members

Les McIntyre\*

George Tooke\*

Bill Sullivan

Don Furner Snr\*

Gerry Edwards\*

Mal Meninga

Noel Bissett\*

John McIntyre

Tony Wood

### Canberra Region Rugby League Life Members

Michael Clarke

Cliff Stevens

Peter Cox\*

Bob Gresham

Graham Johnston

Rhonda Carson

Karen Ebsworth

Tom Ebsworth

Chris Nightingale

John Cooper

\*Deceased



## NEWS FROM 2025

### Fresh Faces Join the 2025 George Tooke Shield



The CRRL is excited to welcome two teams to the 2025 George Tooke Shield (GTS), the Snowy River Bears and the newly established Googong Goannas.

Fresh off their 2024 Group 16 premiership victory, the Snowy River Bears have opted to make the switch to the GTS in 2025.

Meanwhile, the fast-growing Monaro-region town of Googong has formed a rugby league club, with the Googong Goannas RLFC set to compete in the GTS Men's Tackle and Women's League Tag competitions.

With the Cootamundra Bulldogs returning to Group 9, the GTS will feature nine teams in Men's Tackle, while Women's League Tag may expand to nine teams, with Snowy River working to establish a side.

Goannas secretary Tracy Morgan said establishing a rugby league club in Googong had been a long-time ambition.

“Simon Morgan (Goannas president) had done a lot of the groundwork in 2016, but around the COVID epidemic, it was put on hold,” Morgan said.

“As a resident of Googong, he noticed there was a need for the town to have its own sporting clubs. Since then, we’ve seen other codes get up and running and be successful.”

Now, the Goannas are making that vision a reality.

“It’s really amazing and a little bit surreal,” Morgan said.

“Googong has grown so much, and with other sporting clubs having great success, not just on the scoreboards but with the community involvement, we knew it was the right time to try and see what happens.”

The Goannas will call Duncan Fields home, a venue that will bring the community together on game days, with strong support already established for the club.



“It’s such a great spot, and we hope it will bring a lot of people down to watch some Saturday footy,” Morgan said.



“We already have a lot of people interested in playing and also in volunteering.

“We’re so appreciative of the support we’ve received from CRRL, sponsors, and the community – we couldn’t have done it alone.”

The CRRL also acknowledges the generosity of Geoff Young, president of the Monaro Panthers Football Club, for his willingness to share the grounds for both soccer and rugby league, further strengthening the close-knit community of Googong.

With a solid foundation and passionate supporters, the Googong Goannas are ready to make their mark on the GTS and contribute to the region’s rugby league future.

Meanwhile, the Snowy River Bears’ move to the GTS comes after a challenging period of trying to field both Firsts and Reserves in Group 16, coupled with the departure of several key players.

“We have been struggling to fill two grades for the past few years, and many of our First Grade players have moved on to other clubs or competitions after winning the Group 16 premiership,” club president Jason Dyball said.



“As such, we would have been unable to continue within Group 16, and there was potential that our club may have had to fold.”

The switch to the GTS provides a fresh start, allowing the Bears to field just one team and focus on developing young local talent.

“Moving to the GTS will benefit our club by allowing us to focus on a single team and most of all, will allow us to develop our local younger players into quality footballers through mentorship from some of our more seasoned veterans,” Dyball said.

The Bears have brief history in the GTS, having competed in the 1997 and 1998 seasons. Now, more than two decades later, their return marks an exciting new chapter for the club.

Their inclusion also supports CRRL’s efforts to develop a hub for junior rugby league in the Snowy Monaro Region, covering Cooma, Jindabyne, Bombala, and surrounding areas.



## CRRL Congratulates Australia Day Honours Recipients

The Canberra Region Rugby League (CRRL) proudly congratulates several of its supporters who have been recognised in the Australia Day honours and at the community level.

Tony Rayner: CRRL Committee Member and President of Bungendore Tigers RLFC, awarded Citizen of the Year by the Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional Council for his outstanding volunteer contributions to the community. In 2025, the new Bungendore Sports Hub was named Anothny Rayner Oval.



Martin Meredith OAM: Chairman of Wheelchair Rugby League Australia, awarded an OAM for his efforts in developing wheelchair rugby league and his strong support of CRRL's wheelchair programs.

Dr. David Headon AM: Awarded an AM for his services to historical research and writing, particularly for his book *Absolutely Bleeding Green*, which chronicles the history of the Canberra Raiders. His research was instrumental in CRRL's centenary celebrations, and he was an exceptional guest at the centenary luncheon.



Maryanne Fitzgerald - Harden Citizen of the Year: Maryanne Fitzgerald, the hardworking Secretary of the Harden Murrumburrah RLFC, has been recognised as Harden Citizen of the Year. For many years, she has dedicated herself to the club, handling everything from administration and ground announcing to working in the canteen. A true legend of rugby league in Harden.

Rebecca Kelley PSM: Recognised for her work in the Public Service, primarily as the Director of ACT Sport & Recreation. Her leadership during the Covid-19 pandemic and collaboration with CRRL in developing facilities were invaluable to the region's sports community.



CRRL extends its heartfelt congratulations and gratitude to all recipients for their significant contributions to rugby league and the broader community.



## U17 Girls Take Centre Stage at GIO Stadium for Women in League Round



In celebration of Women in League Round, two CRRL Under 17 Girls teams will step onto the big stage this Saturday at GIO Stadium, playing a curtain-raiser ahead of a blockbuster NRL match.

At 12:45PM, the Junior Bushrangers and Woden Valley Rams Under 17s girls teams will take the field at GIO Stadium, ahead of the top-of-the-table clash between the Canberra Raiders and Canterbury-Bankstown Bulldogs at 3:00PM.

With a sell-out crowd expected, it's a major platform to showcase the emerging talent in Canberra's thriving female rugby league community.

"This match is a fantastic opportunity for the Under 17 girls to not only showcase their rugby league skills, but a chance to emulate their Raiders NRLW heroes," said CRRL General Manager Mark Vergano.

"The next Simaima Taufa or Grace Kemp could be in this group of young players, along with all the girls who've taken up the game and helped drive the growth of female participation in recent seasons."

CRRL's female registrations have risen by 13% this year - from 1,726 in 2024 to 1,945 in 2025 - continuing a strong upward trend in female participation at the grassroots level.

This growth reflects a broader commitment across the region to creating accessible and inspiring pathways for girls in rugby league.

"We're proud of the work being done to build an inclusive game, and this event is a great reflection of where we're headed," Vergano said.

Further elevating the occasion, the Canberra Raiders NRLW squad will be in attendance to cheer the girls on before beginning their own pre-season training next week.



## CANBERRA REGION RUGBY LEAGUE

The Canberra Raiders and Canberra Region Rugby League also wish to acknowledge the vital contribution of all women in the game - not only as players, but as referees, trainers, managers, coaches, and administrators.

“We thank them for their contribution to the greatest game of all,” Vergano said.



## CRRL Partners with Jim's Mowing in New Sponsorship Deal

The CRRL is excited to welcome Jim's Mowing as an official partner for the next two years.

As Australia's most trusted lawn care franchise, Jim's Mowing will support both the Canberra Region Rugby League (CRRL) and the Canberra District Rugby League Referees Association (CDRLRA) throughout the 2025 and 2026 seasons.

As part of the partnership, the Jim's Mowing logo will be proudly displayed on the back of every referee's shirt, ensuring visibility across 200+ matches played each weekend in both junior and senior competitions.



With a strong presence across the ACT and surrounding areas, Jim's Mowing takes pride in delivering professional services that keep communities looking their best. Their commitment to hard work, teamwork, and community support aligns perfectly with the values of the CRRL, making them a natural fit as a sponsor.

CRRL General Manager Mark Vergano highlighted the importance of supporting referees to grow the game.

"Jim's Mowing's support will help the Canberra referees recruit new officials and continue to develop younger referees, providing them with a clear pathway to progress in the sport," Vergano said.



## CANBERRA REGION RUGBY LEAGUE



"Referees play a vital role in rugby league, ensuring a well-officiated and safe environment for over 6,000 participants each weekend.

"This partnership reinforces the game's commitment to high-quality officiating and development."



## CRRL Announces New Partnership with Tradelink

The CRRL is proud to announce its partnership with Tradelink for the 2025 season and beyond.

With over 160 years of industry experience, Tradelink is a trusted name in Australia's plumbing and bathroom supplies sector, providing high-quality products and reliable service to trade professionals and home renovators.

Their strong reputation for expertise and customer satisfaction makes them an ideal partner for the CRRL.



As part of the sponsorship, Tradelink will support both the Coach Developer and Wheelchair Rugby League programs.

The Coach Development Officer Program will be rebranded as the "Tadelink Coach Development Officer Program," with the officer wearing Tradelink-branded kit while attending club trainings each week to support community coaches across the CRRL.

Tadelink's branding will also be featured across CRRL platforms, including social media and the [Coach Education](#) section of the CRRL website. Additionally, Tradelink will strengthen its presence in wheelchair rugby league, with its logo displayed on the tags and wheelchairs.



CRRL General Manager Mark Vergano highlighted the importance of Tradelink's backing for these programs.

"The Tradelink Coach Developer support is important as it is a new program aimed at assisting clubs and coaches develop their skills while providing crucial support for new coaches at all levels," Vergano said.

"Better coaching leads to better experiences for players of all ages and skill levels and aligns with the high standards of customer service delivered by both Tradelink and the CRRL."

He also emphasised the impact of Tradelink's support for the CRRL's growing wheelchair rugby league program.

"Tadelink's support of the Rolling Raiders program helps showcase wheelchair rugby league as an inclusive sport, following the team's success in winning the NSWRL Wheelchair competition last season," he said.

"This is a game that can be played by all genders, people with a disability, and able-bodied participants on an equal basis."

Vergano further highlighted how Tradelink's values align with those of the CRRL, reinforcing their shared commitment to excellence, inclusivity, and professionalism.

"The values of Tradelink complement those of the CRRL, ensuring inclusive practices, integrity in both sport and business, and a commitment to professionalism in all areas," he said.

"The involvement of Tradelink will allow the CRRL to expand its coaching and wheelchair programs, helping rugby league remain a safe, inclusive sport with the support of great partners like Tradelink."



Tradelink Branch Manager James Studholme expressed his excitement about supporting grassroots rugby league.

"By investing in grassroots rugby league, we're not just supporting a sport - we're shaping the future of the game," Studholme said.

"It's about building a strong foundation, fostering talent, and ensuring that the passion for rugby league continues to grow, creating a legacy for generations to come."





## CRRL Announces New Partnership with Sign World

The Canberra Region Rugby League (CRRL) is excited to announce Sign World ACT as the major sponsor of its junior competitions for 2025 and beyond.

Sign World ACT, established in 1988, brings over 39 years of experience in designing, manufacturing, and installing high-quality signage. They focus on providing cost-effective solutions for private and corporate clients across Australia.

CRRL has been a proud client of Sign World for all our signage and engraving needs, and we are excited to deepen our partnership.

All CRRL junior competitions will now be named after Sign World, and CRRL is excited to help raise community awareness about the business.

CRRL General Manager Mark Vergano expressed his excitement about the new partnership, highlighting its importance in supporting grassroots rugby league.

"The principals of Sign World have had an active involvement in junior rugby league for many years and the CRRL is pleased to welcome them as a corporate partner to promote increased participation in community rugby league," Vergano said.

"Sign World's partnership complements the support from the Raiders Group of clubs in ensuring that rugby league at junior level remains affordable, safe, and inclusive."



Sign World is a family-owned business with strong roots in the local rugby league community, contributing to the sport through both their business and personal involvement.

Sign World owner Kellie Marks shared her excitement about partnering with an organisation that has had a significant impact on her family's life.



## CANBERRA REGION RUGBY LEAGUE

“This partnership is incredibly meaningful to our company, as it allows us to support and contribute to a sport that has played such a significant role in our family,” Marks said.

“It’s a fantastic opportunity to give back to the local community, support player development, and strengthen our connection to a sport that has given so much to us over the years.

“We have five boys, aged between 10 and 20, all of whom have been playing rugby league since they were around three years old. Rugby league has instilled invaluable life lessons in them, teaching teamwork, discipline, and resilience, and continues to shape their personal growth.

“This partnership will not only strengthen our bond with the local community but also increase our brand’s visibility. It’s about building connections with customers and partners who share our values of teamwork, community engagement, and local support.”

To find out more about Sign World ACT, visit [signworld.net.au](http://signworld.net.au)



## CRRL Coach Developer Holds Coach the Coaches Night At Bungendore

CRRL Coach Developer Liam Herbert held a coach's night at the Bungendore Tigers last Tuesday and helped the club's coaches.

Organised after the initial coaches visit, the committee of the Bungendore Tigers believed a training session conducted by Liam Herbert would benefit their coaches and provide them with valuable information.

Tigers Coaching Coordinator Luke Bayley commented on how the training session provided his coaches with a new perspective and ideas around their coaching.

"It gives the coaches more confidence, they are able to get out there and see things they aren't thinking about, so it's good to see an outside person come in to help them out," Bayley said.



CRRL coaches' developer Liam Herbert is excited about the idea of regular coach the coaches' nights with the aim to impart confidence and knowledge to junior level coaches.

"It's about passing on tools and ideas that can help benefit them along their journey as coaches with things such as facilitating methods, suggestions for drills and coaching skills," Herbert said.

The 45-minute session provided the coaches with an opportunity to come and learn modern day coaching techniques and methods, with the aim for these to be used with their respective teams, whilst also giving junior players at their club the best experience possible.

The success of the session can be measured by the response from the Tigers coaches and committee with the club already looking at locking in a second date.

"After tonight we were already asking about another session with Liam and I'd recommend it to any club who is thinking about organising one, 100%," Bayley said.

For any junior club looking to organise a coach the coaches' night, please contact CRRL Coach Developer Liam Herbert, [lherbert@raiders.com.au](mailto:lherbert@raiders.com.au).



## CRRL Volunteers Among NSWRL Community Award Winners

Author NSWRL

An innovative junior club that has implemented a youth driven mentoring program, a competition and club administrator who has almost doubled participation rates in three years, and a First Nations coach who has assisted First Nations players for more than 30 years are among the major award winners in the 2025 NSWRL Community Awards that acknowledge the vital contribution made to the game every season by more than 34000 volunteers across the state.

Cessnock Minor Rugby League (Community Club of the Year), Dean Bliss (Volunteer of the Year - Northern Region) and Scott Mieni (First Nations Volunteer of the Year) were among the 18 award winners who were honoured for giving up their time as volunteers, officials, coaches and/or referees to help contribute to another record season for participation growth in NSW.

The winners featured Community Club of the Year, NSWRL Coach of the Year (Male and Female), First Nations Volunteer of the Year, Inclusive Volunteer of the Year, Young Person of the Year, and 12 Regional Volunteers of the Year.

The NSWRL's major community volunteer individual award, the Gordon Lowrie Volunteer of the Year, will be chosen from the list of Regional Volunteer winners before being announced at the Brad Fittler Medal at The Star on Monday 1 September.

The Gordon Lowrie Volunteer of the Year, Community Club of the Year, First Nations Volunteer of the Year and Young Person Volunteer of the Year are automatic inclusions for the NRL Community Awards, with the winners to be announced at a later date.

“The 2025 NSWRL Community Awards present the NSWRL with an opportunity to thank and acknowledge the tireless contribution that volunteers make to our great game every season,” NSWRL Chief Executive David Trodden said.

“Whether it’s running the canteen, coaching the team, or marking the field, volunteers have always played an important role for community sport and Rugby League would simply not be able to survive without them.

“I congratulate all the winners for the efforts they have made for the 2025 season and thank all volunteers for the hard work they produce every weekend.”



### NSWRL Community Coach of the Year (Female)

#### Carrie Mitchell nee Jackson (Queanbeyan Roos Juniors and Belconnen Sharks Juniors)

Mitchell, affectionately known as 'Jacko', dedicates her year to ensuring girls can play Rugby League at the highest level they aspire to. She coaches the junior sides for both the Queanbeyan Roos and Belconnen Sharks, the Canberra region RISE Academy, the ACT Under 15s schoolgirls, and the Monaro Colts in the Westpac Lisa Fiaola Cup (Under 17s). Jackson is driven to provide opportunities and experiences to female players that were not available to her when she was young.



### NSWRL Community Coach of the Year (Male)

#### Jayden Grocott (Gungahlin Bulls)



Grocott began his coaching journey as a teenager while he was still playing himself in the local competition. He started coaching the Gungahlin Bulls Under 7s and has dedicated the last 11 years to the team who are now in their final season of junior Rugby League. He has shared many memories with the team, including winning a Grand Final, as well as juggling his own playing career as captain of the reserve grade team in the senior competition. The players in the Under 17s aspire to play alongside him one day.



**Mr Jon Tucker awarded NRL's Teacher of the Year**



With over ten years of tireless dedication to the sport, Jon has made it his mission to ensure that Rugby League is not just a game, but a tool for connection, confidence, and community.

As the ACT's first NRL Platinum Teacher Ambassador, Jon has redefined what it means to be an educator involved in sport. His leadership has created countless opportunities for students to engage with the game, many for the very first time.

At Charles Conder Primary School, Jon leads by example. Whether it's running after-school clinics for Kindergarten to Year 2 students, coordinating All Abilities and Special Olympics programs, or supporting kids on the sidelines, Jon ensures that every child gets a go, regardless of their skill level or background.

Even when away from school on personal leave, Jon continues to plan and support sporting initiatives remotely, proof that his commitment runs deep and far beyond the school gates.

Outside of school hours, Jon wears multiple hats, he's a junior league coach, an active participant in the Tackle Ready program, and plays a crucial role as secretary and educator liaison for School Sport ACT. Jon has also sat on the CRRL committee as the school's representative for over 10 years, and in that time, participation in the region has more than doubled.

His school has become a hub for Rugby League activity, regularly hosting Raiders Blitz visits, League Stars programs, and player appearances, initiatives Jon personally supports and champions.

One moment that speaks volumes about Jon's values came during the Sullivan Shield Primary Schools Gala Day, where he helped merge students from different schools to form new teams, ensuring no one was left on the sidelines simply



## CANBERRA REGION RUGBY LEAGUE

because their school couldn't field a full side. It's this kind of thinking, innovative, inclusive, and student-first, that defines Jon's impact.

Through sport, Jon is building more than teams, he's building confidence, resilience, and a sense of belonging for kids who may otherwise miss out. His work continues to inspire fellow educators, students, families, and the broader Rugby League community throughout the Canberra region and beyond.

The Canberra Raiders thank and celebrate Jon for his leadership, heart, and the lasting legacy he's creating in Rugby League.

You can become an NRL school ambassador like Jon [here](#)!



## OBITUARIES

### Ian Baker

The CRRL is deeply saddened to learn of the passing of Queanbeyan Kangaroos club legend, Ian Baker.

A lifelong contributor to the Kangaroos since their inception in 1969, Ian most recently served as club president from 2020 to 2023, continuing a remarkable legacy of dedication and leadership.

Ian was one of the club's foundation junior players, inspiring his younger brothers - David, Neil, Michael, and Ashley - to also don the Kangaroos jersey. He went on to play over 100 first grade games, winning two premierships and becoming the inaugural recipient of the prestigious Les McIntyre Medal in 1987, awarded to the competition's best and fairest.

Ian's involvement extended well beyond his playing days, serving as a long-time trainer for the Kangaroos and continuing to support the club in various roles across decades.

Ian's passion for the club was shared by his family. His mother, Barbra Baker, played a pivotal role in her sons' rugby league journeys, serving as Committee Member and Secretary for both the Junior and Senior Kangaroos for many years. In recent times, Barbra and her husband, Gordon Baker - Ian's father - continued to support the club as dedicated volunteers in the Freebody Oval canteen.

As club president, Ian made culture a priority. That legacy was reflected in the club's 10-year drought-breaking premiership win in 2023 and again in 2024 under new president Troy Whiley, who stepped in while Ian bravely battled cancer. Together, these back-to-back premierships stand as a testament to Ian's influence.

Ian Baker leaves behind a lasting legacy at the Queanbeyan Kangaroos and within the broader rugby league community. He will be sorely missed, and the CRRL extends its heartfelt condolences to the Baker family.





### **Bobby Warner**



at both the senior and junior clubs, with 30 years of his service dedicated to the role of president within the junior club.

"It is with sadness that we have lost another of the history of the CRRL with the passing of Queanbeyan Blues and early Raiders Stalwart Bobby Warner," CRRL Chairman Gary Green said.

"It is only fitting that his memory will live on with the recent naming of the Bobby Warner Pavillion at Wright Park."

The Queanbeyan Blues will commemorate Bobby's legacy by holding a minute silence at this weekend's senior games and wearing black armbands at junior games.

CRRL's condolences go out to Bobby's family and the wider Queanbeyan Blues family.

The CRRL is deeply saddened to learn of the passing of Queanbeyan Blues club legend, Bobby Warner.

As a life member of the Queanbeyan Blues, Bobby dedicated over 50 years of service to the club.

Throughout his time with the Blues, Warner held many roles on the executive



### Percy Knight

The Canberra Raiders are saddened by the passing of Raider #39, Percy Knight.

Originally from Condobolin, NSW, Percy Knight played 24 matches for the Raiders from 1983 to 1984, after joining the club from Balmain, where he played 64 matches from 1978 to 1982.

He was also part of the famous Monaro side of 1977, which defeated the touring Great Britain Lions 33-12 in a match held at Seiffert Oval.



Canberra Raiders Patron and former Chairman John McIntyre said Knight was one of the first players the club targeted when it entered the competition in 1982.

“Percy was one of a number of players we listed in the official submission to the NSWRL as possible players we would target if we were to gain entry to the competition,” Mr McIntyre said.

“We weren’t able to sign him initially, though, as he re-signed with Balmain, but eventually he joined the Raiders alongside a number of former Balmain players like Lloyd Martin, Gary Spears, Alan McMahon, and of course, David Grant.”

Mr McIntyre said Percy Knight was a player who always gave his best when playing for the Raiders and was one of the smartest players of his time.

“He was a great organiser for our team at the time, and not only was he a very intelligent man on the field, he was also very intelligent off it.”



### Paul Robertson



The CRRL is deeply saddened to learn of the passing of Paul Robertson.

After moving to Canberra in the early 1990s, Paul Robertson was an integral member of the Tuggeranong Rugby League community, coaching his sons Michael, Adam and Brad at the Buffaloes and Dragons.

Along with coaching, Paul was an active member on the Valley Dragons committee, consistently volunteering his time for ground setup and any other jobs which required attention.

In 2003, Paul played an integral role in the establishment of the Tuggeranong Bushrangers where he was later recognised as a founding life member and held in high regard by all members of the community.

Retiring from his role with the club in 2019, Robertson continued to support his beloved Bushrangers at Greenway Oval often helping out with BBQs on game days.

Paul will be missed by all those who knew him, and the CRRL extends its heartfelt condolences to the Robertson family.

### Zane Thomson

The Canberra Region Rugby League pays tribute to Zane Thomson who tragically lost his life in a motorcycle accident on the 27<sup>th</sup> of July 2025.

Zane was a beloved member of the Woden Valley Rams community where he played from the age of 6, culminating in his First-Grade debut in 2020 at the age of 18.



Throughout his time with the Rams, Thomson was appointed junior club captain demonstrating his outstanding character and ability to connect with people.

The CRRL extends its heartfelt condolences to Zane's family, friends and everyone whose life he touched.



## COMMUNITY RUGBY LEAGUE PARTICIPATION 2025

**466 TEAMS**  
57 SENIORS 409 JUNIORS

**34 CLUBS**  
17 SENIORS 17 JUNIORS

JUNIORS	SENIORS	TACKLE	WHEELCHAIR	LEAGUE TAG	SCORE
<b>TOTAL PLAYERS</b>	<b>MALE PLAYERS</b>	<b>FEMALE PLAYERS</b>			
<b>7,114</b>	<b>= 5,079 + 2,035</b>				
<b>↑9.11%</b> on 2024 numbers	<b>↑5.97%</b> on 2024 numbers	<b>↑17.69%</b> on 2024 numbers			

**AGE GROUP BREAK DOWN**

18+ years 23.6% or 1601	4-12 years 47.25% or 3362	13-17 years 32.24% or 2151
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**FEMALE REPRESENTATION**

**1398 ACCREDITED SPORTS TRAINERS**

**656 ACCREDITED COACHES**

**134 REFEREES**

Each weekend, approximately **230** games are played across **39** Venues. These games are facilitated by **924** of our loyal and dedicated club volunteers.

**INDIGENOUS PARTICIPANTS** **1046\***

**INCLUSIVE RUGBY LEAGUE** **89\***

**MULTICULTURAL PARTICIPANTS** **402\***

**PARTICIPATION IN SCHOOL EVENTS** **18,000**

\* Participants who have been identified. All statistics obtained through MySideline registration reports

**OUR REACH**

**Raiders Primary Footprint**

- Raiders territory participation area
- Raiders territory regional footprint
- Canberra Region Rugby League competition

**TO FIND YOUR LOCAL CLUB VISIT**  
**RAIDERS.COM.AU/CRRL**



CANBERRA REGION  
RUGBY LEAGUE

**\*FINANCIALS**

**CANBERRA REGION JUNIOR RUGBY LEAGUE  
INCORPORATED**  
**ABN 18 860 858 942**

**FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 OCTOBER 2025**

**CANBERRA REGION JUNIOR RUGBY LEAGUE INCORPORATED**  
**ABN 18 860 858 942**

**FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 OCTOBER 2025**

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**CANBERRA REGION JUNIOR RUGBY LEAGUE INCORPORATED**  
**ABN 18 860 858 942**

**COMMITTEE'S REPORT**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 OCTOBER 2025**

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Your committee members submit the financial statements of Canberra Region Junior Rugby League Incorporated (the Association) for the financial year ended 31 October 2025.

**Committee Members**

The names of the committee members throughout the year and at the date of this report are:

Anthony Rayner	Jon Tucker
Christopher Nightingale	Michelle Jopling
Danny Roper	Phillip Watts
Gary Green (Chairman)	Steve Troth
Greg Bell	Yvette Croft
Ian Gorman	

**Principal Activities**

The principal activities of the Association during the financial year were that of organising, encouragement and promotion of rugby league.

**Significant Changes**

No significant changes in the nature of these activities occurred during the year.

**Operating Result**

The deficit for the financial year ended 31 October 2025 amounted to \$22,937 (2024: surplus \$26,359).

Signed in accordance with a resolution of the members of the committee.



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Committee Member



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Committee Member

Dated this 10th day of December 2025

**CANBERRA REGION JUNIOR RUGBY LEAGUE INCORPORATED**  
**ABN 18 860 858 942**

**STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 OCTOBER 2025**

	<b>Note</b>	<b>2025</b>	<b>2024</b>
		\$	\$
Revenue and other income	2	1,087,842	965,421
Employee benefits expense		(449,787)	(325,241)
Depreciation expense		(9,562)	(5,310)
Administration expenses		<u>(651,430)</u>	<u>(608,511)</u>
(Deficit) / surplus for the year		<u>(22,937)</u>	<u>26,359</u>
Other comprehensive income		-	-
Total comprehensive (deficit)/income attributable to members of the entity		<u>(22,937)</u>	<u>26,359</u>

**STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 OCTOBER 2025**

	Retained Surplus Total	\$
<b>Balance at 1 November 2023</b>	51,993	
Surplus attributable to members	<u>26,359</u>	
<b>Balance at 31 October 2024</b>	78,352	
<b>Balance at 1 November 2024</b>	78,352	
(Deficit) attributable to members	<u>(22,937)</u>	
<b>Balance at 31 October 2025</b>	<u>55,415</u>	

The accompanying notes form part of and should be read in conjunction with these financial statements.

**CANBERRA REGION JUNIOR RUGBY LEAGUE INCORPORATED**  
**ABN 18 860 858 942**

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION**  
**AS AT 31 October 2025**

	<b>Note</b>	<b>2025</b>	<b>2024</b>
		\$	\$
<b>ASSETS</b>			
CURRENT ASSETS			
Cash and cash equivalents		111,756	95,457
Trade and other receivables	3	98,394	101,692
Inventories		2,710	4,222
<b>TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS</b>		<b>212,860</b>	<b>201,371</b>
NON-CURRENT ASSETS			
Plant and equipment	4	17,870	16,132
<b>TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS</b>		<b>17,870</b>	<b>16,132</b>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>		<b>230,730</b>	<b>217,503</b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>			
CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Trade and other payables	5	120,284	93,878
Provisions	6	55,031	45,273
<b>TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		<b>175,315</b>	<b>139,151</b>
NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Provisions	6	-	-
<b>TOTAL NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>		<b>175,315</b>	<b>139,151</b>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		<b>55,415</b>	<b>78,352</b>
<b>EQUITY</b>			
Retained surplus		55,415	78,352
<b>TOTAL EQUITY</b>		<b>55,415</b>	<b>78,352</b>

The accompanying notes form part of and should be read in conjunction with these financial statements.

**CANBERRA REGION JUNIOR RUGBY LEAGUE INCORPORATED**  
**ABN 18 860 858 942**

**STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 OCTOBER 2025**

	<b>2025</b>	<b>2024</b>
	\$	\$
<b>OPERATING ACTIVITIES</b>		
Receipts from customers	791,694	674,479
Operational grants received	317,000	377,091
Payments to suppliers & employees	(1,132,511)	(987,759)
Net GST remitted to the ATO	(38,219)	(38,955)
Government grants and subsidies	85,000	-
Interest received	4,635	3,350
Net cash flow from operating activities	<u>27,599</u>	<u>28,206</u>
<b>INVESTING ACTIVITIES</b>		
Purchase of property, plant and equipment	(11,300)	(9,000)
Net cash (used in) investing activities	<u>(11,300)</u>	<u>(9,000)</u>
Net increase in cash equivalents	16,299	19,206
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of financial year	95,457	76,251
Cash and cash equivalents at end of financial year	<u>111,756</u>	<u>95,457</u>

The accompanying notes form part of and should be read in conjunction with these financial statements.

**CANBERRA REGION JUNIOR RUGBY LEAGUE INCORPORATED**  
ABN 18 860 858 942

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 OCTOBER 2025**

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**Corporate Information**

The financial statements cover Canberra Region Junior Rugby League Incorporated (the Association) as an individual not-for-profit entity. Canberra Region Junior Rugby League Incorporated is an association incorporated in the ACT under the *Associations Incorporation Act 1991 (ACT)*.

Australian Accounting Standards set out accounting policies that the AASB has concluded would result in financial statements containing relevant and reliable information about transactions, events and conditions. Material accounting policies adopted in the preparation of these financial statements are presented below and have been consistently applied unless otherwise stated.

**Note 1. Statement of Material Accounting Policy Information**

**Basis of Preparation**

The financial statements are general purpose financial statements that have been prepared in accordance with *Australian Accounting Standards - Simplified Disclosures of the Australian Accounting Standards Board*, and the *Association Incorporation Act 1991 (ACT)*.

The financial statements have been prepared on an accruals basis and are based on historical costs.

The financial statements are presented in Australian dollars and all values are rounded to the nearest dollar unless otherwise stated.

The financial statements were authorised for issue on 10th December 2025 by the Committee.

The financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis. With the agreement that Canberra District Rugby League Football Club Limited will continue to provide financial support as disclosed in Note 9, the Association will be able to pay its debts as and when they fall due.

**Accounting Policies**

**a) Income Tax**

The Association is exempt from income tax under Section 50-45 of the *Income Tax Assessment Act 1997*.

**b) Inventories**

Inventories are measured at the lower of cost and net realisable value.

**c) Plant and Equipment**

Each class of plant and equipment is carried at cost less, where applicable, any accumulated depreciation and any impairment losses.

In the event the carrying amount of plant and equipment is greater than its estimated recoverable amount, the carrying amount is written down immediately to its estimated recoverable amount and impairment losses recognised in the statement of comprehensive income.

**Depreciation**

Plant and equipment are depreciated on either a straight line basis or diminishing value basis over the asset's useful life commencing from the time the asset is held ready for use.

The depreciation rates used for each class of depreciable assets are:

<b>Class of fixed asset</b>	<b>Depreciation rate</b>
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Plant & Equipment	10% - 50%
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Gains and losses on disposals are determined by comparing proceeds with the carrying amount. These gains and losses are included in the statement of comprehensive income.

**d) Financial Instruments**

The Association's financial instruments comprise cash and cash equivalents, trade and other receivables and trade and other payables and are classified as either 'financial assets' or 'financial liabilities at amortised cost'.

**Initial Recognition and Measurement**

Financial instruments are initially measured at fair value, when the related contractual rights or obligations exist. Subsequent to initial recognition these instruments are measured as set out below. Fair value represents the price that would be received to sell an asset or paid to transfer a liability in an orderly transaction between market participants at the measurement date. Where available, quoted prices in an active market are used to determine fair value. In other circumstances, valuation techniques are adopted.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 OCTOBER 2025

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**Note 1. Statement of Material Accounting Policy Information (continued)**

**Classification and Subsequent Measurement**

Financial instruments are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest rate method. The Association applies a simplified approach in calculating expected credit losses (ECL's) for financial assets held at amortised cost by recognising a loss allowance based on lifetime ECLs at each reporting date.

Amortised cost is calculated as:

- (i) the amount at which the financial asset or financial liability is measured at initial recognition;
- (ii) less principal repayments;
- (iii) plus or minus the cumulative amortisation of the difference, if any, between the amount initially recognised and the maturity amount calculated using the effective interest method; and
- (iv) less any reduction for impairment.

**Derecognition**

Financial assets are derecognised where the contractual rights to receipt of cash flows expires or the asset is transferred to another party whereby the Association no longer has any significant continuing involvement in the risks and benefits associated with the asset. Financial liabilities are derecognised where the related obligations are either discharged, cancelled or expired. The difference between the carrying value of the financial liability extinguished or transferred to another party and the fair value of consideration paid, including the transfer of non-cash assets or liabilities assumed is recognised in profit or loss.

**e) Impairment of Non-Financial Assets**

At each reporting date, the Association reviews the carrying values of its tangible and intangible assets to determine whether there is any indication that those assets have been impaired. If such an indication exists, the recoverable amount of the asset, being the higher of the asset's fair value less costs to sell and value in use, is compared to the asset's carrying value. Any excess of the asset's carrying value over its recoverable amount is expensed to the statement of comprehensive income.

**f) Employee Benefits**

A provision is made for the Association's liability for employee benefits arising from services rendered by employees to the end of the reporting period. Employee benefits that are expected to be settled within one year have been measured at the amounts expected to be paid when the liability is settled. Employee benefits payable later than one year have been measured at the net present value of the estimated future cash flows to be made for those benefits. In determining the liability, consideration is given to employee wage increases and the probability that the employee may not satisfy vesting requirements. Those cash outflows are discounted using market yields on national government bonds with terms to maturity that match the expected timing of cash flows.

**g) Cash and Cash Equivalents**

Cash and cash equivalents include cash on hand and deposits held at call with banks with a maturity of three months or less.

**h) Revenue from Contracts with Customers**

Revenue from contracts with customers is recognised when control of the services are transferred to the customer at an amount that reflects the consideration to which the Association expects to be entitled in exchange for those services. The Association has generally concluded that it is the principal in its revenue arrangements because it typically controls the good or services before transferring them to the customer.

*Sale of Goods*

Revenue from sales of goods (including merchandise, equipment and final series ticket and canteen sales) comprises revenue earned from the sale of goods purchased for resale. Sales revenue is recognised when the control of goods passes to the customer which is at the time that the goods are physically transferred.

*Rendering of services*

Revenue from rendering of services (including sponsorships, nomination, playing, insurance and affiliation fees) is recognised over time, using an input method to measure progress towards complete satisfaction of the service, because the customer simultaneously receives and consumes the benefits provided by the Association.

CANBERRA REGION JUNIOR RUGBY LEAGUE INCORPORATED  
ABN 18 860 858 942

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 OCTOBER 2025

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**Note 1. Statement of Material Accounting Policy Information (continued)**

**i) Grants and Subsidies**

Assets arising from grants and subsidies are recognised at their fair value when the asset is received or receivable. These assets are generally cash but maybe property which has been donated or sold to the Association at significantly below its fair value.

**j) Goods and Services Tax (GST)**

Revenues, expenses and assets are recognised net of the amount of GST, except where the amount of GST incurred is not recoverable from the Australian Taxation Office (ATO).

Receivables and payables are stated inclusive of the amount of GST receivable or payable. The net amount of GST recoverable from, or payable to, the ATO is included with other receivables or payables in the statement of financial position.

Cash flows are presented on a gross basis. The GST components of cash flows arising from investing or financing activities which are recoverable from, or payable to, the ATO are presented as operating cash flows included in receipts from customers or payments to suppliers.

**k) Comparative Figures**

Where required by Accounting Standards, comparative figures have been adjusted to conform to changes in presentation for the current financial year.

**l) Trade and Other Payables**

Trade and other payables represent the liability outstanding at the end of the reporting period for goods and services received by the Association during the reporting period. The balance is recognised as a current liability with the amounts normally paid within 30 days of recognition of the liability.

**m) Critical Accounting Estimates and Judgments**

The Committee Members' estimates and judgments, where appropriate, are incorporated into the financial statements based on historical knowledge and best available current information. Estimates assume a reasonable expectation of future events and are based on current trends and economic data, obtained both externally and within the Association.

**n) Changes in Accounting Standards and Interpretations**

**New and amended standards and interpretations**

The new and amended Australian Accounting Standards and Interpretations that apply for the first time in 2025 do not materially impact the financial statements of the Association.

**Accounting Standards and Interpretations issued but not yet effective**

**AASB 18 Presentation and Disclosure in Financial Statements**

In April 2024, the AASB issued AASB 18, which replaces AASB 101 Presentation of Financial Statements. AASB 18 introduces new requirements for presentation within the statement of profit or loss, including specified totals and subtotals. Furthermore, entities are required to classify all income and expenses within the statement of profit and loss into one of five categories: operating, investing, financing, income taxes and discontinued operations, whereof the first three are new. It also requires disclosure of newly defined management-defined performance measures, subtotals of income and expenses, and includes new requirements for aggregation and disaggregation of financial information based on the identified 'roles' of the primary financial statements (PFS) and the notes. In addition, narrow-scope amendments have been made to AASB 107 Statement of Cash Flows, which include changing the starting point for determining cash flows from operations under the indirect method, from 'profit or loss' to 'operating profit or loss' and removing the optionality around classification of cash flows from dividends and interest. In addition, there are consequential amendments to several other standards. AASB 18, and the amendments to the other standards, is effective for reporting periods beginning on or after 1 January 2027, but earlier application is permitted and must be disclosed. AASB 18 will apply retrospectively. The Association is currently working to identify all impacts the amendments will have on the primary financial statements and notes to the financial statements.

**CANBERRA REGION JUNIOR RUGBY LEAGUE INCORPORATED**  
**ABN 18 860 858 942**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 OCTOBER 2025**

	<b>Note</b>	<b>2025</b>	<b>2024</b>
		\$	\$
<b>Note 2. Revenue and Other Income</b>			
<b>Revenue from Contracts with Customers</b>			
Revenue from rendering of services		442,535	352,679
Revenue from sales of goods		238,672	232,301
		<u>681,207</u>	<u>584,980</u>
<b>Other Income</b>			
Grant income	11	317,000	377,091
Government grants and subsidies		85,000	-
Interest received		4,635	3,350
		<u>1,087,842</u>	<u>965,421</u>
<b>Note 3. Trade and Other Receivables</b>			
<b>Current</b>			
Trade receivables		39,034	55,642
Less provision of doubtful debts		(2,433)	-
GST receivable		-	7,275
Accrued Income		<u>61,793</u>	<u>38,775</u>
		<u>98,394</u>	<u>101,692</u>
<b>Note 4. Plant and Equipment</b>			
Plant and Equipment - at cost		55,511	54,491
Accumulated depreciation		<u>(37,641)</u>	<u>(38,359)</u>
		<u>17,870</u>	<u>16,132</u>
<b>Movements in carrying amounts</b>			
Movement in the carrying amounts for each class of plant and equipment between the beginning and end of the current financial year:		<b>Plant &amp; Equipment</b>	
Balance at 1 November 2023		12,442	
Additions		9,000	
Disposals		-	
Depreciation expense		<u>(5,310)</u>	
Carrying amount at 31 October 2024		<u>16,132</u>	
Balance at 1 November 2024		16,132	
Additions		11,300	
Disposals		-	
Depreciation expense		<u>(9,562)</u>	
Carrying amount at 31 October 2025		<u>17,870</u>	
<b>Note 5. Trade and Other Payables</b>			
Trade payables		6,458	9,855
Accrued expenses		108,712	80,849
GST payable		1,932	-
Income in advance		<u>3,182</u>	<u>3,174</u>
		<u>120,284</u>	<u>93,878</u>

**CANBERRA REGION JUNIOR RUGBY LEAGUE INCORPORATED**  
**ABN 18 860 858 942**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 OCTOBER 2025**

	<b>2025</b>	<b>2024</b>
	\$	\$
<b>Note 6. Provisions</b>		
<i>Employee benefits</i>		
Opening balance	45,273	44,812
Increase in provisions during the year	9,758	461
Closing Balance	<u>55,031</u>	<u>45,273</u>
<b>Analysis of Total Provisions</b>		
Annual leave & long service leave - current	55,031	45,273
Annual leave & long service leave - non-current	-	-
	<u>55,031</u>	<u>45,273</u>

**Note 7. Contingent Liabilities and Contingent Assets**

As at reporting date the Association has no known contingent liabilities or contingent assets.

**Note 8. Events after Reporting Period**

There have been no events subsequent to the reporting date which require disclosure in the financial statements.

**Note 9. Economic Dependency**

The Association is reliant on funding from Canberra District Rugby League Football Club Limited to assist with its continuing operations. Canberra District Rugby League Football Club Limited has committed to the continuing financial support for the Association.

**Note 10. Key Management Personnel Compensation**

Any person(s) having authority and responsibility for planning, directing and controlling the activities of the entity, directly or indirectly, including any director (whether executive or otherwise) of that entity is considered key management personnel.

The key management personnel of the Association did not receive any remuneration during the year (2024: \$nil).

The Association obtains key management personnel services from Canberra District Rugby League Football Club Limited.

**Note 11. Related Party Transactions**

**a) Transactions with Related Parties**

During the year ended 31 October 2025, the Association received grants totalling \$317,000 from Canberra District Rugby League Football Club Limited (2024: \$350,000). The Association is dependent on these grants which were made to allow the Association to continue to operate as a going concern.

During the year ended 31 October 2025, the Association also made purchases from Canberra District Rugby League Football Club Limited totalling \$10,000 (2024: \$10,000).

The controlling entity of the Association is Canberra District Rugby League Football Club Limited.

**Note 12. Association Details**

The principal place of business and the registered office of business of the association is:

Canberra Region Junior Rugby League Incorporated

164 Monaro Street

QUEANBEYAN NSW 2620

**Note 13. Auditor's Remuneration**

The auditor of Canberra Region Junior Rugby League Incorporated is Ernst & Young (Australia).

Amounts received or due and receivable by Ernst Young (Australia) for:

An audit or review of the financial report of the entity	6,674	6,078
	<u>6,674</u>	<u>6,078</u>

**CANBERRA REGION JUNIOR RUGBY LEAGUE INCORPORATED**  
**ABN 18 860 858 942**

**STATEMENT BY MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE**

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In the opinion of the Committee the financial statements as set out:

1. Present a true and fair view of the financial position of Canberra Region Junior Rugby League Incorporated as at 31 October 2025 and its performance for the year ended on that date in accordance with *Australian Accounting Standards - Simplified Disclosures* and the *Associations Incorporations Act 1991 (ACT)*.
2. At the date of this statement there are reasonable grounds to believe that the Association will be able to pay its debts as and when they fall due.

This statement is made in accordance with a resolution of the Committee and is signed for and on behalf of the Committee by:



\_\_\_\_\_  
Committee Member



\_\_\_\_\_  
Committee Member

Dated this 10th day of December 2025



**EY**  
Shape the future  
with confidence

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## Independent auditor's report to the members of Canberra Region Junior Rugby League Incorporated

### Opinion

We have audited the financial report of Canberra Region Junior Rugby League Incorporated (the Association), which comprises the statement of financial position as at 31 October 2025, the statement of comprehensive income, statement of changes in equity and statement of cash flows for the year then ended, notes to the financial statements, including material accounting policy information, and the statement by the members of the Committee.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial report presents fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Association as at 31 October 2025, and its financial performance and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards - Simplified Disclosures and the *Associations Incorporations Act 1991 (ACT)*.

### Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial report* section of our report. We are independent of the Association in accordance with the ethical requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's APES 110 *Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (including Independence Standards)* (the Code) that are relevant to our audit of the financial report in Australia. We have also fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

### Information other than the financial report and auditor's report thereon

The committee members are responsible for the other information. The other information is the committee members' report accompanying the financial report.

Our opinion on the financial report does not cover the other information and accordingly we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial report, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial report or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated.

If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact. We have nothing to report in this regard.

### Responsibilities of the committee members for the financial report

The committee members of the Association are responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards – Simplified Disclosures and the *Associations Incorporations Act 1991 (ACT)* and for such internal control as the committee members determine is necessary to enable the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial report, the committee members are responsible for assessing the Association's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters relating to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the committee members either intend to liquidate the Association or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

#### Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial report

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial report as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of this financial report.

As part of an audit in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards, we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Association's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the committee members.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of the committee members' use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Association's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial report or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Association to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial report, including the disclosures, and whether the financial report represents the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.



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We communicate with the committee members regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

*Ernst & Young*  
Ernst & Young

Irene Tzavaras  
Partner  
Canberra  
10 December 2025